Re:Monster

リ・モンスター

5

金斬児狐

アルファポリス

Day 186

I have nothing in particular to talk about today.

Reconstruction has silently progressed and as a result, the store portion of the mansion is nearing completion.

At this rate, it will be completed tomorrow. Although a large portion of the first floor still needs work, since the store is only a small part of it, we should still be able to start doing business once I finish putting our merchandise on display.

Day 187

The work that we started in the morning was completed shortly after noon.

To put it simply, our current plan is to have a part of the store function as a supermarket.

Given that the shop became a structure that's roughly fifty meters long, forty meters wide, and seven meters tall, a lot of merchandise can be put on display in such a spacious area.

A basic commodity that we'll have is various materials that are used in alchemy, such as vegetables from the Great Forest, Black Skeleton bones, and so on.

We'll have cooking utensils for use at home such as large pots and kitchen knives whose sharpness and ability to cut things won't quickly deteriorate, as well.

Using air transportation, we'll bring fresh vegetables grown in our ≪Farmlands≫ to the Royal Capital, as well as a great variety of other ingredients, such as Black Fomorian meat.

We're also planning to have clothes that Kanami-chan and others have designed, as well as weapons and armor that were made by the Dwarves and Leprechauns.

In addition, we'll also have daily necessities such as scissors and expensive work gloves that are blade-proof, which I used my thread to make.

These are the types of items that our merchandise list will be composed of.

At first, I want to acquire regular customers by spreading the image that our prices are kept at a very reasonable level, so one can get almost any item they need by coming here.

Eventually though, I want to attract various shops and expand the business into a large-scale shopping center.

Anyway, the shop was more or less completed in this way.

After a short discussion, we decided that the store's grand opening would be in three days.

Although I'm feeling anxious about it, I'll try and run this shop for the time being. If it's not serving its purpose, I guess I can always make modifications. Even if the business fails, we'll still be able to eat because we can continue our mercenary work.

I calculated that if the Tomboy Princess moves, our customers will also include nobles, so I immediately told her about the day the store will open through the ear cuffs.

My only concern is that the First Queen will probably come, as well. Well, that shouldn't be a bad thing...probably.

Day 188

Today, I left the remodeling to the foreman and the other craftsmen and left the Royal Capital with the members of ≪Solitude≫.

I had them line up in two columns and we quickly headed for a forest that's roughly an hour's walk from the capital.

Seeing as they were wearing light leather armor, with things like swords and short spears in their hands and a backpack with food and medical supplies on their backs, the members of ≪Solitude≫ would've previously become worn out immediately, with the exception of some like the ringleader.

However, because their eating habits have improved and they've obtained combat-related jobs, they've reached the point where they can just barely handle actual combat with the help of body strengthening enchantments. When we arrived, although they were tired, not a single member had dropped out.

After we arrived, I had them all rest for roughly a minute so they could catch their breath. After that, I grouped them into parties of four, told them to go hunt monsters on the outskirts of the forest, and saw them off.

Since there were fifty of them, I was able to make twelve groups, though two people were left after doing so. I decided to have the two remaining people, the group leader and his bratty second in command (who is female), team up with Auro and Argento.

Since high level monsters don't come to the outskirts of the forest, I also told them to hunt further in it, as well.

It should be fine since Auro and Argento are with them, unless several Hind Bear ranked monsters appear. Since they have the ear cuffs with them as well, they shouldn't die either way.

If it's necessary, I'll just have to go and save them. While we waited for everyone to return, I trained with Redhead and Kanami-chan outside of the forest.

Everyone returned in the evening.

Although many of them suffered various major and minor injuries, some of them were able to hunt Horned Rabbits and Armored Tanuki, which were nostalgic to see. Another group had taken several legs from a Demon Spider, only to have them stolen by a type of wolf monster right after. Some of them harvested things like 【Thorned Fig Tree Roots】, which are roots that are delicious, but come out of the ground when something approaches and stabs them. There were also those who hunted Sleep Moths, a moth which scatters scales that causes those who inhale them to become drowsy. Surprisingly, it seems they did their best.

As I expected though, the group that had the best results was Auro's group.

They simply overwhelmed the other groups as they took down things like the following:

- Orcs, with their pig heads and fat bodies.

- Dire Looks, a large striped cat that confuses its opponents by emitting a scent that has a bewitching effect.

- Gray Lizards, lizards that have characteristic gray scales and make use of unrefined axes.

Well, I wasn't really worried about them.

I gave them both praise and patted them on their heads. Though it was almost as if they were being tickled, they didn't seem to hate it.

After that, I gathered all the materials and loot into my Item Box and we set out to return using a Skeleton Centipede.

Since the majority of the children had fallen asleep, we took our time on the return journey. They smelled of blood and sweat from running around in the forest all day long, so when we returned to the mansion in the Royal Capital, the first thing I did was put them in the bath.

After the bath, I prepared meals for each specific group using the prey they hunted as ingredients. Since the people who hunted more had more extravagant meals, it should help motivate them in the future.

The message this gave them was, "If you want to eat something better, then work harder for it."

It's simple and effective.

Day 188 Sidestory: Ringleader's POV (Future commander of the [Solitude] Corps of Parabellum)

Just until recently, I did not have dreams about the future. After all, getting enough food just for the day poses difficulty, and it only gets more difficult as the capital city gets colder by the day.

Finding someone you talked to yesterday dead in the morning is nothing unusual, and that is why I did everything I had to in order to survive. However, that unreasonable way of living has a limit, and I found out the hard way.

To live we stole, get caught, and dragged to a back alley we get beaten by several adults. Kicks without restraint struck my whole body. I had no choice but to wait for it all to wrap up. I thought that, I would die before it ended. However, perhaps I stink because I was washed with gutter water the day before, I lucked out when it ended sooner than usual. I didn't die from the beatings. Even though my whole body hurts, I didn't die yet. But, it won't be far off, before I die like the others.

But, on that day, my destiny did a 180 degree turn.

There's tasty food. There's a safe place to sleep. There's nice clothing that has been washed. There's weapons to defend ourselves with. And more than anything, there's someone who offered us protection.

It was like a dream, although of course nothing came without a price. What was needed, was us ourselves. Doing what we are told, with our given roles was requested.

The daily training we were assigned was hard. For us who hadn't had enough to eat, the training was almost unbearable. But, we endured it. Endured and endured and endured, we clenched our teeth and continued training. And the day we see the results came.

At the forest an hour's walk from the capital. Today we headed for it. This time the Commander's with us too, everyone was fired up. The Commander was our saviour. Without the Commander, half of us would have died.

The first time we met the Commander was scary, but we found out this place was warm, we couldn't imagine anywhere else. I don't know what the others think, but at least, I want to protect this warm place. That's why I wanted to become power for the Commander who taught us how to live, who gave us a place to belong to. Even as little as it is, something that is as good as nothing, I thought I wanted to be of help. I thought I wanted to be useful.

As I reconfirmed those feelings, we formed parties of 4 under the Commander's instructions, and dived into the forest.

Even though we were taught in our training, walking in the unaccustomed forest was difficult. On top of that the monsters that appeared went after our lives without mercy, it was very scary. I thought I'd start shaking if I let down my guard. But, I brought up my courage and thrust out my short spear. The monster that attacked — the Blade Rabbit's fur split, pierced muscles, and torn organs gave a unique feel. And I felt when the spear had luckily pierced through the heart, the feeling of life slipping through.

As I looked down to the dying Blade Rabbit what I felt was not the guilt of stealing a life, but rather a strong sense of accomplishment. It was the certain feeling of me who was weak and only to be used, getting stronger.

Little by little, but steadily, becoming stronger. Still a far away dream, but I want to become useful to the Commander someday. That's my goal. That's why, for now, I focused on killing one monster at a time.

It's not an exceptional result, but the road's still long. I found a dream I didn't have before and there's many thing I want to do now as well.

The despair from back then, it feels like a memory already. Right now, I only need to walk forward with a single purpose.

- Believer candidate. Future executive candidate.

- Please be careful with raising this child.

- Secured a promising force for the future.

Day 189

I left the redecorating to the foreman and the other craftsmen again today, and left the Royal Capital with Kanami-chan this morning.

Then, with the mental map that my clones had filled in, we left and flew to the Labyrinth City "Aquarium," which is a place I haven't been to yet.

Aquarium is located far away from the Royal Capital and the Kuuderun Great Forest, near the borders of the Atarakua Demon Empire, which is ruled by a Demon Emperor; I'll just call it the Demon Empire from now on. Since it's so far away, none of our members that grew up in the Great Forest have been there before.

When it comes to introducing Aquarium, the first thing that I'd have to say about it is that there's an 【Age of the Gods Dungeon】 there.

As for 【Age of the Gods Dungeons】, their high degree of difficulty can't be compared to the 【Derived Dungeons】 like the ones we've entered up to this point. This Labyrinth City is among the liveliest places that I've been to so far, though.

Special 【Artifact】 level items collected in the 【Age of the Gods Dungeon】 are more valuable than other dungeon items, though I was able to see the occasional adventurer wearing some unique armor on their body.

Because its difficulty is high, the level of the adventurers that challenge it appears to be suitably high as well. Since some of those amongst them possessed 【Divine Protection】, many of them were very appetizing.

Getting back to discussing the 【Age of the Gods Dungeons】, this one in particular was made by the 【Demigod of Spring Water】 and it's classified as a 【Demigod Rank】

dungeon. The name it's been given is 【Waterfall Basin of Spring Water, Aquarium Forlia】.

One of the dungeon's basic specifications is that it's made up of underground levels. In addition, many of its traps are water-based, and the monsters that appear there are primarily those of the elemental, fish, and shellfish systems.

The final layer is fifty floors down, and in the dungeon's long history, there's been very few stories of adventurers making it to that floor and successfully killing the boss.

Most of them aren't capable of defeating the boss enshrined on a specific level. Since this prevents them from delving deeper, it looks like these people enter the upper levels of the dungeon every day in order to collect items and earn daily cash income.

By the way, I haven't mentioned it yet, but the 【Age of the Gods Dungeons】 have ranks as well.

When it comes to the 【Great God Rank】 dungeons, which have the highest degree of difficulty, most 【Heroes】 and 【Great Heroes】 would be annihilated on the first floor if they challenged one.

According to the small amount of information left behind, only five of these exist in the world, and it looks like the small fry in them are basically the same level as Wyverns. Also, because they're small fry, there's a considerable number of them.

How scary.

【God Rank】 is the rank that comes before that in terms of difficulty. Although it's difficult, these dungeons appear to be something that 【Heroes】 and 【Great Heroes】 are somehow able to delve into. Having said that, it seems they're often killed by the floor bosses, so they can't let down their guard in them.

Then there's the 【Demigod Rank】, which is easiest rank of 【Age of the Gods Dungeons】.

If they're extremely cautious, it looks like ordinary people are somehow capable of descending into these. However, the amount of risk that 【Derived Dungeons】 carry is still incomparable to the 【Demigod Rank】.

Since even high-level people are mercilessly killed in these dungeons if they're careless, there aren't many who enter them.

However, for those that are reckless and continue to enter these dungeons, a large amount of money can be obtained all at once, if everything goes smoothly.

That's the gist of it, anyway.

Anyway, I gathered information as I looked through the merchandise in the street stalls and shops. Although I did enter the dungeon, it looks like I'll have to put in a lot of effort if I want to completely capture it.

I only went and leisurely explored the first floor this time around. There was a long and wide passage with a splendid interior that resembled a temple in some respects, and the floor was submerged up to my ankles in cold water. This causes a person's body temperature to constantly drop. They'll also consume more stamina than usual simply by walking.

Moreover, the dungeon strengthens the monsters within it by approximately 2 ranks, making them very tough, as I expected.

However, since everything was so appetizing, I decided to explore the dungeon a little bit more.

As a result, I obtained the following:

- Twenty three Iolite Elementals, which have a spherical blue core that's wrapped in flowing water. The greatest magic from the Aqua system that it can use is third-grade magic.

- Eighteen Armored Scissormen, which are roughly the size of Goblins. They normally lie camouflaged on the floor, but they'll jump up and try to catch those who get close with their shell and cut them. Their shell is stronger than steel.

- Forty seven Bullet Fish, which are approximately sixty centimeters in length and have a characteristic pyramid shaped head that's as heavy as lead. They swim in the air like it's water and when they detect prey, they rush at them at a speed of roughly 130 kilometers per hour.

- Eight Dirotonis, which are huge fish that are approximately two meters in size and have strong teeth that can even crunch Armored Scissormen. They have a scaled shell that's hardened to the point that it's like metal armor.

- Ten Water Leapers, white frogs that are roughly the size of a large dog. It has the tail and fins of a fish, which makes it look like it has grown wings.

That about sums it up.

In addition to the item drops I got from the various monsters, since I was able to collect raw materials that can be gathered in the dungeon as well, my heart was warmed.

...Would it be easier to understand if I just said that I simply hunted monsters as I casually explored the first floor, and that I obtained approximately one million gold coins as a result?

After seeing the merits of the 【Age of the Gods Dungeon】, I'm sure that this is a place where I can make quite a lot of money.

I decided to return home before dusk, so I bought some magic metal and local ingredients as souvenirs on my way out of the city.

Because I can get home in no time if I fly through the skies, I want to develop some sort of air transportation in the future.

Day 190

Today is the opening day of the shop. Opening time: 9 A.M.

The Tomboy Princess was already there and she exclaimed 『I came!』 with a triumphant look on her face. Even though it's cold enough outside for snow to fall, she’s been waiting out there for three hours. Honestly, that fool.

She was wearing high-quality winter clothing to keep her warm, but she's still young. If I let her stand outside, she'll most likely catch a cold.

Although I was shocked for a moment, I brought her to a small snack corner that I had set up near the store's entrance and served her some hot tea.

The First Queen, Dark Hero, and their servants arrived just a few minutes later.

A chill ran down my spine for a moment when they glanced at me, but I'm trying to avoid thinking about that for the time being.

Since she thought that she was the first to arrive this early in the morning, the vexed expression that the First Queen momentarily displayed when she saw that the Tomboy Princess was already there left a deep impression.

They were arguing back and forth like a normal parent and child would, but their carefree mood told me that it wasn't anything serious and that they actually got along with each other.

Despite such an event occurring, the opening proceeded without any problems. Since this was coupled with a week-long opening sale, we had more visitors than I expected.

Though we hardly advertised through the distribution of flyers and things like that, it looks like the Tomboy Princess had been talking to the Nobles, and the Foreman to the commoners.

While I thought, "It's unexpected, but despite my skimping on advertising, it looks like there's a chance we can make a living with this because of our acquaintances," there was some trouble caused by nobles and commoners being gathered in the same place.

However, it looks like the problems were safely resolved by discussing them.

I won't bother talking about what happened though, since it's not worth mentioning.

Anyway, as for Female Samurai, she displayed unexpected success as a salesperson this time.

Apparently, she worked at a similar job as a part-timer before coming to this world, so she was accustomed to this sort of work. In addition to that, the experience she's gained from living in this world for several years has made her capable of grasping and promptly responding to the subtleties of other people's minds.

Because I only anticipated her fighting strength and her radar for Otherworlders, it looks like I've found something unexpected.

She was perfect for it, so I gave her the title of "Royal Capital Shop Manager."

She gave me a bitter smile, but I want her to work hard since the title comes with perks that include a salary increase, among other things.

Although there was a bit of trouble, the first day ended in this way.

Because it was more popular than I thought, it may unexpectedly be the right thing for us to do. As for Blacksmith-san, although she was doing this sort of work for the first time, since it looks like accounting is her strong suit, I'll have her take care of that from now on.

However, since I'm our representative, I'll have to think of new goods and tactics in the future. As I was doing so, I cooked the prey that I brought back from the dungeon yesterday, ate it, and then went to bed.

One more thing. The dungeon monsters from the 【Age of the Gods Dungeon】 were very tasty.

They almost melted on my tongue when I ate them raw, but they were even more delicious when I cooked them.

I shouldn't just explore the 【Demigod Rank】 dungeons, but also the 【God Rank】 ones.

As I cleaned up my excess drool, I thought, "Someday...the 【Great God Rank】 dungeons."

Today's the day that I decided on a clear goal for the future.

Day 191

It's the second day of the opening sale.

It looks like the visitors that came on the shop's opening day spread the word even more, as we had a fair number of customers this morning.

However, the social class of the visitors seemed to lean towards one side.

To be more specific, while they weren't the kind of wealthy merchants that might be richer than a poor noble, there were still many people with fairly high positions in the Royal Capital there, such as aristocratic military officers and city officials.

Although there were nobles who visited the shop and brought several servants with them, there were also those that ordered servants, such as their butlers and maids, to purchase goods while observing the store.

Although the proportion of these types was roughly fifty-fifty, I'm personally more grateful for the former than I am the latter.

When the latter comes by to run their master's errand, they frequently purchase goods for their own use as well. The servants have a very high salary for a commoner, and there's a number of items they're able to choose from and buy themselves.

However, in the former's case, the attendants become baggage carriers as the nobles whimsically buy a large quantity of various items. Either that, or the items being bought are too expensive for the money to be given to a commoner. Of course I'm happy when situations like this occur.

Contrary to my expectations before the store opened, I'm quite pleased that the expensive products are selling better than I expected.

By the way, I think that the Tomboy Princess and the First Queen are the cause of this increase in business.

Either that, or it may have been because of the information that the First Queen's attendants brought back with them. I can't deny the possibility that they spread it through an information network, which would probably be a network of the 【Five Great Gods Religion】's hidden believers.

When I observed our customers, not all of the nobles and their servants were members, but I was able to identify quite a few people wearing accessories with carved patterns indicating that they're one of the 【Five Great Gods Religion】's believers.

In addition, I've recently gotten used to receiving customers, so I think it's safe to say that I can notice the way they gaze in my direction without saying anything.

Well, having said that, since it's highly likely that I won't have a lack of customers for the foreseeable future, the weight on my shoulders has decreased a bit.

Although the store just opened, I wouldn't be able to laugh if we had no business at all.

However, while this may be true, I'm still not relieved.

I'm assuming that most of our customers came out of curiosity the first time, which is useless if they stop coming. On top of that, I don't think they'll come back if we don't continue to improve the products and services that other stores don't have on a regular basis.

Also, because communication technology is still underdeveloped in this world, word of mouth is very important when it comes to advertising.

Since it's very difficult to recover once you get a bad image, I need to make an effort to create a good first impression.

For that reason, I received our customers with the most basic of things; a smile.

However, there was one problem with that.

Even though the rest of my group's members are fine with it, my smile appears to have had quite an impact on the customers that came by for the first time yesterday, to such an extent that they lost all strength in their hips. Of course, this excludes the people that have already gotten to know me, like the Tomboy Princess, our glorious first customer.

According to the people in question, they seemed to instinctively think that they were about to get eaten.

Since I was just being myself, their reactions hurt my feelings a little.

My personal feelings aside, this is a matter I should reflect on.

I went to Kanami-chan beforehand to get advice on how to uphold a good appearance, but because she was the only person who had become fully accustomed to being around me, there was a blind spot.

That's why I made use of my contemplation of this matter and tried various things to improve it.

The solution I found was to use my negative status ability, 【Weak Intimidation】, when I go to take care of customers.

The effect of 【Weak Intimidation】 is that it makes me weak to intimidation attacks I receive from an enemy. In other words, it's easier to scare me.

The ability is useless at a glance, but when I invoke it, it has a side effect that weakens the intimidating aura that I unconsciously release around me.

Immediately after noticing this, I tested the ability and examined the area. The fear the customers had because of my unconscious intimidation was alleviated, and the likelihood of customers becoming frightened was greatly decreased.

In my case, 【Weak Intimidation】 has become an effective skill when dealing with customers.

Honestly, I don't know where else it would really be usable.

With this, their anxiety disappeared for the time being, and we continued working.

An old butler came by to run an errand for a Noble, and I attracted his interest by selling quality goods beyond what he requested for less than he anticipated.

The many detailed demands that he made aside, when it came to paying, the fourth son of a Noble said, 『I'll pay you back when I get promoted = I want this on credit』, so I took him to the back office and taught him the rules of society.

Because they were dressed up in pretty clothes and accessories, we used skillful words to entice the party of one noble's daughter into noticing the clothes that Kanami-chan and the others had designed and put out for sale.

As I had already anticipated, it didn't take long for a fair number of troublesome customers to come by, but we were able to smoothly deal with them for the most part.

However, there was still one particularly troublesome person.

The one who required the most attention today was a noble with a gentle smile, a well-trained body and a splendid, well-maintained handlebar mustache as his characteristics.

He holds the considerably high title of Marquis, and is one of the few influential people that was on the Tomboy Princess's side and didn't support the 【Nobles Faction】 during the recent coup d'état.

At the moment, the amount of influence that he carries has increased because of his achievements, and it’s certain that he’ll become an important person for the Tomboy Princess in the future.

I met the Marquis several times when I was working on her requests; I'll simply refer to him as Marquis Kaiser from now on since his real name is too long. He brought three young attendants with him, as well.

As for his attendants, they consisted of two 【Knights】 and one 【Secretary】.

Although the three of them were still in their early twenties, since the Marquis raised and trained them from childhood, their levels were high for their age.

Equipped with iron armor and a longsword, the two young knights were silently waiting behind him with an intense expression on their faces. Both of them had a good build and their muscular bodies appeared to be well-trained.

Their fighting prowess is probably only slightly lower than that of the Rusty Iron Knight.

For private soldiers, they’re quite excellent.

In front of the two knights was the secretary, who was standing diagonally behind Marquis Kaiser with a sharp glint in her eyes and a hard to please look on her face. She carries the atmosphere of a woman who does her job well, but is hard to approach.

Although she skillfully hid it, the slight movements of her body felt out of place, so I’m guessing that she probably has various dark devices hidden in her clothes.

She’d probably lose if she fought the two young men behind her head on, but she might be able to beat them if she used back-alley tactics.

Although I don't have any concrete evidence of this, it's what my intuition is telling me.

Either way, Marquis Kaiser's guards are tough. It would be more difficult than usual to successfully assassinate him.

Marquis Kaiser, along with the excellent servants that he brought with him, asked about the origins of the high class items that were on display on the wall. These items were a portion of the magic items that I had collected from the late Minister. After that, he proceeded to look at the clothes the Leprechauns had made one by one.

I'm grateful that he's generously buying everything he's pleased with, without looking at the cost. As a result, the luggage that the knights have to carry home has continued to increase as time passes.

Before long, it had accumulated to such an extent that they couldn't see in front of themselves, but they continued to carry the luggage despite the fact that it continued to accumulate. Speaking of how much he was buying, one can imagine that even the arms of the two strong knights had started to tremble slightly, due to the weight increasing in proportion to the amount being bought.

It can be said that Marquis Kaiser is a good, lavish customer.

However, the secretary that was behind him was sighing heavily, but I intentionally pretended that I didn't notice it.

Since she's the one entrusted with her master's wallet, I'm sure that her worries will never end.

By the way, the number of items he bought became too much, so I arranged for them to be transported to Marquis Kaiser's residence.

As a kind of service for his bulk purchase, I decided to do this for free.

Seeing as I caused some grief before, the two knights' mood improved since they didn't have to carry the large amount of baggage anymore. As for the secretary, she breathed a

sigh of relief as she thought about the expenses they saved because I had waived the delivery fees.

At any rate, Marquis Kaiser is very good at talking.

It might be impolite of me to say this, but contrary to his appearance, he possesses a wealth of knowledge. While he mixed bits and pieces of his vast knowledge into our conversation so it was easy to understand, we drew the interest of others.

Our interactions weren't like those of a salesperson and a customer, but more like normal friends socializing, which was a lot more interesting.

Still, I can't be careless around Marquis Kaiser, since his mind is brimming with thoughts that he wants to win us over to his side.

He was completely devoid of an atmosphere of disdain because we had eliminated the Strong Grandson and his allies. The fact is that he's doing everything he can to win us over for the sake of the Tomboy Princess, or rather, the Kingdom. Some might call it fighting spirit, or maybe even zeal, but dealing with him directly wears me out.

However, it’s not like I said that I dislike it. He's rather likeable, so he's not someone I can resent.

It’s just that he's troublesome because he's difficult to handle.

Whenever I was about to say something untactful, there'd sometimes be a snake-like glint in his eyes.

To make sure that our deal isn't broken, I must think carefully before I speak.

Nevertheless, since he was trained to keep the society of Nobles in check, Marquis Kaiser was superior in verbal warfare. As expected of someone who smoothly avoided the dangers of the recent coup d'etat and survived.

Unfortunately, my experience was different.

Still, although I was mentally worn out by the end of it, I managed to pull through somehow. I guess it’s inevitable that I was relieved when we finished.

After that, I served a small number of other customers before ending the day.

From today, I once again understood that serving customers doesn't suit my personality, after all.

This back and forth is fine when a contract is being signed, but in this case, it causes too much mental fatigue. Rather, perhaps I should say that repeatedly being exposed to their excessively enthusiastic gazes makes my shoulders stiff, after all.

Although it'd still be fine if it was a temporary thing, but it’s extremely unlikely that I’ll grow accustomed to it if it continues to occur.

Since I have other work that I have to take care of, I decided that I would entrust this job to those who are good at it starting tomorrow.

One by one, I should assign management to each area.

Day 192

It’s the third day of the shop's opening sale.

I didn't work in the shop today, but instead focused my energy on the mansion's first floor renovations.

Since the foreman and the other craftsmen worked yesterday, I had some of our group members work with them as well doing odd jobs. It looks like things went better than I expected.

While it’ll still take some time to complete the renovations, it appears that they'll be finished earlier than expected.

By the way, I appointed Female Samurai as the shop's manager and entrusted it to her.

Since she has the Humans (male and female) that possess the 【Merchant】 and 【Peddler】 jobs with her, as well as quickwitted Elves (male) that possess the good looks typically associated with their species that the Humans brought with them as their assistants, I think she'll be able to handle it.

The goods that we sold yesterday were restocked overnight, and we still have quite an abundance of them in stock as well.

There shouldn't be any particular problems.

Now that I think about it, it looks like business is doing better than yesterday. As I was working on the renovations, I thought I heard a voice calling for help for some reason.

However, I simply hardened my heart and remained silent.

Today was different from yesterday, as many 【Alchemists】 came to buy raw materials, and wealthy merchants came to check out the situation. A pretty large amount of goods was being exchanged at a time.

In this world, you essentially try to beat the prices of other shops, so we set the prices for our shop's goods a little low when compared to their quality, and they're even cheaper because it's a sale.

I wanted to keep the shop’s prices fixed, but since there are many cases of people negotiating the prices in this world, I decided to tolerate doing so to some extent.

Therefore, since merchants were using their words to lower the prices, even Female Samurai appeared to be having a hard time. The tenacity of veteran merchants is quite amazing, isn’t it?

In addition, the group members that possessed merchant system jobs had some ups and downs as well since, to be honest, there was a difference in their levels as a merchant. They were at an overall disadvantage and continued to lose ground the entire time.

It was constant haggling, and the battle of words unfolded on countless occasions.

However, they also gained experience every time this happened. I used my clones to keep watch over Female Samurai and the others.

Having said that, even if they're overwhelmed by the other party, most of the products being sold here are items we obtained in the previous war that we haven't made use of yet. There are also raw materials gathered in the Great Forest being sold as well. For that reason, there’s no problem since we'll make a fair bit of profit just by selling them, even if the price is haggled down some from its cost that's already significantly lower than usual. With this being the situation, that was the conclusion that I came to.

As for Female Samurai and the other members, it seems they gained great experience from today's events.

However, contrary to my expectations, although they had lowered the prices, they weren't reduced below the expected values.

With this kind of effort, I think their work deserves some sort of reward.

In the evening, while I was thinking about such things, Female Samurai and the others closed the shop.

It looks like much of their fatigue is more mental than it is physical.

After the girls and boys of Solitude finished their training, I left the task of cleaning the store and restocking the merchandise to them. Then, I used the specially made aroma oil that Doriane-san gave me to do a practice run of giving oil massages on the shop group that had persevered in their work.

After the first floor renovations are completed, I plan to open a massage shop for nobles and wealthy merchants. To prevent any problems once it opens, I should finish training the talented members of our group that look like they'll be good at it while we still have time.

Of course, I also intend to use this as a reward for those working in the shop.

I'll be responsible for Female Samurai, the person that made the biggest contribution today. As for the others, it's up to them to choose their respective partner.

For some reason, Kanami-chan and Redhead didn't plan to get a massage in the massage shop. Instead, they began practicing with Auro and Argento as their partners, on both sides of me.

Since there are no laws in this world that say that someone needs a national license to be a masseuse, it's so easy that we just have to teach them the basic hand techniques and other points of note.

While suitable time and experience are necessary for someone to obtain skilled hands, I felt like they might be able to obtain some sort of 【Job】 like 【Masseuse】 or 【Massage Specialist】 if they continued practicing.

I asked Redhead about them, but it doesn't look like she's heard of any 【Jobs】 like these. However, it's possible that they exist and people simply don't know about them.

...Yeah, I've decided to think that it's a good find if that happens.

There were a lot of beds lined up in one of the mansion's rooms, and when we tried it out as we practiced for approximately one hour, the fatigue of the shop members was significantly reduced by the combined effects of Doriane-san's special aroma oil and the massage itself.

Since the room's temperature was being kept at a moderate level with a magic item, most of those receiving a massage had fallen asleep halfway through it.

When I asked the members that were still awake, it looks like the massages were fairly effective even though they were given by beginners. With more training, they should become useful in the future.

As we disbanded for the day, I told those I'm training to practice on their own when they have time.

Day 193

It's been snowing since morning.

Although it was snowing yesterday as well, it’s heavier today. Nearly eighty centimeters of snow has already fallen as of this morning, and it's likely that it's going to continue to accumulate.

Since we have a magic item installed on the shop's door that uses a Wind and Fire Spirit Stone to periodically clear the snow from the area around the entrance, we'll have no problems opening the shop. However, it’s unlikely that we'll get many important customers.

Unless they have important business to take care of, most people will just stay in their homes today. Since they need to clear the snow off their roofs, and most of the roads are buried in snow, the situation can't be helped.

As for the Foreman and the other craftsmen, I wanted them to take the day off because of the heavy snow, so I contacted them via the ear cuffs that I gave them before.

Having done that, I decided to keep the number of sales clerks to a minimum today, and had all the members that don't have work to do gather in one place.

After all, it’s the perfect day to train them without reservation for the first time in a while. Also, the snow is just the right thing for this.

This training is so that they can move around perfectly in various environments, such as sprawling plains, meadows that are overgrown with grass, deserts with burning sandstorms, and humid wetlands, among other areas. For that reason, these natural conditions are perfect for us to train in.

With my abilities, I could emulate the environments to some extent, but I can't do it to this scale with my present self.

My abilities simply aren’t enough. I don’t have anything from the temperature reduction system yet, which includes freezing abilities.

I may be able to do it with magic, but honestly, even if it's possible, I don't want to do so since there'd be too much waste.

Anyway, after we finished our stretching in the mansion, we adjusted our equipment and left for the training grounds.

All of the members put on a heavy outfit designed to keep out the cold, as well as a thick overcoat that's highly water repellant, which was made from my thread and raw monster materials so that their body temperature won't drop because of the cold wind and snow. They're also wearing leather armor under their overcoats, a backpack on their backs containing weights, and they had their favorite weapons hanging on their waist or shoulders.

With this, the circumstances for our basic march were completed.

Of course, the training grounds were dyed white by the snow that's fallen, which is why we prepared ourselves in this way.

When marching in these conditions, it's typical for those marching to advance while using magic items and tamed pets to clear the snow.

However, when that’s not enough, they'll use manpower to dig and push their way through it. I did think about whether we should do this method first, though.

That said, I’m still uncertain about the stamina of many of the members of ≪Solitude≫, so I decided to pass on that thought this time.

The snow levels had increased too much, so I carefully used 【Pyrokinesis】 to melt the snow in the training grounds. Melting the snow in a wide area caused the level of cold water to rise too much, so I also used 【Hydro Hand】 to remove the water.

As a result, the ground absorbed a lot of water and became muddy, but I left that alone. While I might be able to more or less remove this water, I think the burden caused by the muddy ground is perfect.

Even if I had removed said water, the snow would eventually pile up again. Since this snow would melt when people step on it, the area would still end up in a similar state, so there was no point in me doing so.

After fixing the place up, I took lead of the members that had assembled in rows and columns.

Since we were still warming up, I had them continue to run for approximately thirty minutes, with the minimum objective of keeping their formation intact.

At first, their lungs were numbed every time they breathed in the cold air as they ran. However, the exercise was generating internal heat for them.

Although they were cold at first, it wasn't a problem because of the heat of the steam rising from their bodies as they ran.

Even though they weren't running very fast, the young members of ≪Solitude≫ were out of breath. However, they were still able to stick it out and continue running until the end somehow.

Having said that, it seems that this exercise was still fairly harsh for the young group to do. There were some members who vomited or simply fell down as soon as they finished running.

However, because they desperately ran to the end, this is acceptable for the time being.

As one would expect, their group showed no signs of moving, so I had them rest for a moment. As for the remaining members that still had energy to spare, I first had them form parties of two, and then had them start the actual combat training that was already the standard in Parabellum.

Of course, since they're training with real weapons, the chance of someone being injured is high. Actually, I'm almost 100% certain that there will be injuries.

Although their thick armor will protect them if they're grazed by the tip of a sword, the attack's impact will still affect their body.

If they're hit, it'll break their bones every time, and in the worst case they may be left near death. Thankfully, this has yet to lead to situations where limbs were lost, but there have been several instances of injuries that came close.

That said, since Seiji-kun and I healed them each time this happened, not one of them has had to deal with the after-effects of receiving a fatal injury.

I understand that it's a very dangerous training method to use, but I'm certain that real combat is the best way to quickly increase their overall abilities.

Actually, the members' tolerance for pain has improved since we started using this training method. As a result, their combat abilities have risen drastically, and their skill level when it comes to close combat is high.

Each member gets a growth modifying effect because of me, but as I thought, much of their growth is due to this type of training.

I don't intend for it to start happening, but even if someone dies from this training in the future, I probably won't stop using this method.

Anyway, this continued for a while, and then the members of ≪Solitude≫ recovered and started training at the same time for a few more hours.

Without eating lunch, they carefully moved their bodies at various speeds. Through this, we were able to get an idea of how their bodies react in cold climates.

After that, I tried some training by fighting on my own against all of the members present, which numbered at least one hundred.

I gave them a handicap by only using my bare hands and restricting my ability usage.

It started with me being surrounded by everyone, with Kanami-chan leading them.

As they came to attack me, their eyes appeared to say that they wanted to clear away their everyday grudges. It was quite impressive.

Well, as a result, we finished around an hour later and there was a mountain of bodies in the training grounds.

Other than me, only Kanami-chan was left standing. The rest of the members were lying on the ground, including Redhead, Auro, and Argento.

As for the degree of the injuries that they suffered, even the great fighters were heavily wounded.

Well, the members of ≪Solitude≫ are still young and inexperienced, so I easily blew them away with the wind pressure caused by my fists. As a result, they only suffered light injuries like scratches and bruises.

Before they could receive anymore attacks, they had become unable to stand.

As for one of the members that confronted me who was proud of their high fighting strength, one of their arms was broken sloppily. Their body was dripping blood due to the countless large and small lacerations that they suffered, and they were in quite a miserable state.

However, even though they took a certain number of attacks, they weren't defeated instantly. Instead, they were able to endure them.

Thinking about it now, maybe I went too far.

Well, since they would be dead if this was real combat, going this far should be fine.

Anyway, since I got to vent some of my accumulated stress, I was satisfied.

The members have improved more than I expected, and I had more injuries on my limbs than before as a result.

While some of these injuries reached the bone, even without using my abilities, they could already only be seen as thin red lines due to my body's high capacity for regeneration.

Though I can't say that the satisfaction is at a record high, I'm sure that it's very high.

Man, today was a good day.

Since I was in a good mood, I gave everyone a Life Potion that had my blood mixed in in order to cure their wounds. I then used Wyvern meat and other high-quality meats to make a late-night meal.

The Wyvern thigh meat steak is really yummy!

The thinly sliced marbled meat of the Jandal Cow is really yummy!

The roasted Benjal Bird is really yummy!

They were all delicious, but this is probably because all the creatures have a high price. However, the Wyvern meat was the best of them all.

The juices of the meat that bursts out on your tongue, as well as the melting texture when I put the meat in my mouth, they're irresistible.

Just a little, because I desire other dragon meat that isn't from a Jadar Wyvern, I want to go hunting for some if the opportunity presents itself.

Rather, maybe I should challenge the Age of the Gods Dungeon on my own...
When I get some free time, I intend to do so.

Day 194

It was snowing again today. Truthfully, it snowed much less than yesterday. There were also strong winds blowing, which led to banging sounds on the windows. Trees were bending in the wind, scattering the accumulated snow on them.

Such a storm mercilessly took away the remnants of heat from the body of anyone who dared to go outside. The chances of getting frostbite were increased significantly compared to yesterday. In my current state, I wouldn't be hurt, but I wanted to lock myself in the warmth of my house. A warm fireplace is the best. I like to sit and bask in the dancing flames in the hearth.

Although in the hot springs, it was warm and it felt better, once you are within it's warm grasp, you need an incredible amount of willpower to get out. A natural hot spring of the heavens. Once there, the body leaves from the comfort of the soul.

Ahh... I already want to go back to the base and have a good breakfast surrounded by children and Kanami-chan, I thought about it. But then, I had a sudden idea. What if, you make something like a taxi, which will work without rest and bring citizens of the city to their destination? If we were to do this, it would earn us a good amount of money.

One of my trump cards are the wagon 【Skeleton Centipede】 made of bone, designed from 【Lesser Summoning: Undead】 and with 【Skeleton Combination】 【Undead Chimera】. Comparing it with a simple horse, it is unmatched in speed, comfort and it did not need rest. Thus, I wish to easily create a whole bunch of them and the cost of production will not hinder us. It would complete almost all transportation dreams.

Among the shortcomings, under the sunlight they can easily turn into smoke. But, this disadvantage can be overcome by covering it with my clones, and by means of a metal frame. In fact, the Tomboy Princess has asked me to lend them a couple, but I refused,

because I wanted to benefit as much as possible to maintain the secret method of their creation.

Now I have made something for few, or more, precisely the vehicle for 4 people in the likeness of a taxi. The operation of the vehicle would be much cheaper than conventional carts, and I planned to also make the fares lower. Because of the low cost, and how it drives nice and fast, it will certainly attract customers.

This will be a stimulus for increasing the economic activities, which in the cold season is usually “Frozen”. And if it does stimulate activity, then there is a great chance that we will have an increased amount of customers. If this transport works in everyday life, the income from it will be a good increase for us.

It is not clear whether everything will go as planned, but from an economic point of view, the idea does not look bad. Fortunately, even if it fails, we will not lose anything.

Nobody knows what to say about it in the matter of laws of the Sternbild Kingdom. If there were bans on that matter, we would be found guilty before even knowing it. Due to the high possibility of this, you need to dig into a lot of these laws. On this subject, I decided to contact Tomboy Princess. It has been decided and will do.

Thus, finished with breakfast, I went to the Royal Palace for a meeting with Tomboy Princess, to tell her about my new idea. Of course, I could take a walk from the mansion to the Royal Palace and turn into snow demon, but I decided to first, start mass production of a smaller version of the wagon of the 【Skeleton Centipede】.

I have all the materials in the Item Box, and because of preparation did not take a lot of time, not even an hour has passed before I had finished creating it.

The new creation is called 【Skeleton Spider】. In contrast to the long bones of the body of the 【Skeleton Centipede】 capable of carrying a lot of cargo and passengers, it is designed to carry a small number of passengers. It has a small body and had a lower capacity, but the four spaces within it, gives all the comfort to stay inside even if there were

four passengers (excluding the driver), and the roof could carry a surprising amount of things.

Even though it is significantly inferior to the parameters of the hundreds of bones, 【Skeleton Spider】 had all the necessary skills. The problem was in appearance. Imitating fashion, I made it look like a four-wheeled box, and this time, in front of the driver's seat, which was located ahead, I had enchanted my abilities to make a plow-like appendage to clear the snow. This made it so that it looked nothing like the 【Skeleton Spider】 that was initially created. The bones were encased in a corrosion-resistant metal, after that, it no longer looked like a strangely shaped steel trailer.

There was a high probability that the passengers will be interested in how the vehicle works, but I have prepared an excuse that it is made up of several magical items.

While they may not dismantle it, I think that deception will still take place. The interior was decorated with a dense fabric of my webs, as well as various trees growing in the great forest. Using absorbing vibration and shock, the tree species processed by the 【Body Fluid Control】 are added on top of the dense layer of my web. Another layer of wood is then deposited in the interior.

Thus, the inside was very warm and comfortable, and was not able to feel even the smallest shaking due to motion. Certainly not matching the wagon 【Skeleton Centipede】, the 【Skeleton Spider】 still offers good comfort while riding. Thus the bone spider was completed.

With the final prototype, I got to the royal castle located in the Amber Palace gates. Fortunately, I made an appointment in advance, so I was easily let inside. Sipping expensive tea while waiting, Tomboy Princess and Boy Knight finally came.

As usual, she looked cheerful when exchanging the usual greetings. The interior of the palace after the coup, was restored in a hurry, but some things still has traces of the coup and other things still needed time to remove.

After finishing a non-binding contract, we went to the purpose of the visit, the 【Skeleton Spider】. The response was just spot on from the Tomboy Princess.

The Royal Capital was still the center of the Sternbild Kingdom, and because the area is normally densely occupied, traveling along it was quite problematic. To deal with it, they now allowed street carts, but their number was surprisingly small.

Although it was affected by many interests, horse carts were filled with various difficulties, but as a result of what happened recently in the coup, there still hadn't been much to establish routes or proper paths for them. Combined with the fact it is currently snowing outside constantly, most carts were just sitting idle.

Now it was time to go on stage with the 【Skeleton Spider】. Their ability was not only to move on the streets littered with drifts of snow, but also move with ease even in the icy cold snow storm, and was most importantly, very cheap. It could be amazing for the citizens of the capital.

The final decision was to leave all the troublesome paperwork to the Princess all the while the Sternbild Kingdom would not receive a direct profit for this business venture. This was for the sake of increasing the economical activities of their citizens, and as a near direct result, their tax base.

Like I said, let’s live together for common prosperity. Although her answer sounded really like “she will decide when she wants to,” the issue has almost been solved, and she said it’s because she wanted a ride. Looking at her, full of energy, typical for her age, a soft smile appeared on my face. Taking the 【Skeleton Spider】 for a roll herself, she really liked it.

"...Well, if this wagon... the...【Skeleton Centipede】was it? If you're sure if it will work and you can mass produce it, I'm curious as to how its made and how it works.” she thus asked indirectly.

Well, that was to be expected. I gave her my general description that I had come up with beforehand and we left it at that. I noticed a slight hint of disbelief from her though. Honestly, she's a bit to sharp for her own good sometimes.

After that we decided how many should be prepared, which route they will move up to where, and other minor details. I wanted to continue to maintain a good relationship with the Tomboy Princess.

At the end of the affairs, I went back into the house and immediately started the mass production of【Skeleton Spiders】. Having finished the design, the manufacturing process has been to some extent, adjusted. The frame and the interior was entrusted to my comrades, thus reducing the manufacturing time.

Day 195

There wasn't much going on today, its still snowing though. The Royal Capital has been dyed in a white layer of fluff as the streets are congested with both snow and the various people working hard to clear the snow outside.

Meanwhile, a single Skeleton Spider is running through the Royal Capital. I'm putting up poster advertisement for the store as I test the Spider's full speed while clearing the snow around the store. Riding through the streets, the snow that touches the snowplow that was installed in the front ends up instantly melting, changing to water and flowing down into the drainage system installed on the sides of the road. The water in such mass also helps remove snow not directly in the plow's path as the water is heated after it comes in contact with the plow and melts the snow further. The width of the ground gradually extends and a definite road was beginning to form amidst the snowfall.

Just as a Skeleton Centipede is highly noticeable, a Skeleton Spider also will tend to stick out quite a fair bit. The peculiar look caused it to stand out sure, but the main cause of its attention was the ability for this peculiar item to clear the snow. People gathered on the roads that were cleared and began mumbling things such as "What's going on?" and the sort.

While confirming that there was a small problem with how it operates, I rode the Spider with Auro and Argento. If I was asked why, it is simply because they didn't mind training, or working in the shop, they simply wanted to spend time testing the Spider with their father. There certainly does need to be a certain level of physical connection between parent and child.

The two relished running around the Royal Capital on the Skeleton Centipede. We changed because the Skeleton Centipede operates better and suited the purpose of relaxing more. It wasn't a bad day, though, the trial run was over by noon and I spent a good portion of the day on various things. I think I'll be able to manage the mass production target of the Skeleton Spiders somehow.

Day 196

The opening flood from opening the store has passed for the moment. Since it's the last day of the discount sale, I had decided to help with the store.

Though I did release 30 more Skeleton Spiders before I went over there. Our companions were kitted up in the appropriate Sternbild Kingdom attire for a driver and were set in the driver's seat moving along their predetermined routes.

They were to move along the main roads as well as relatively busy areas of commerce and trade. Dozens of Skeleton Spiders were roaming the streets as they cleared the snow. By doing so, more people were leaving their homes and, as such, increasing the number of citizens who saw the ads on the sides of the spiders.

Thus, while clearing the streets clogged in snow, we can successfully draw the attention of potential customers at a steady pace through the advertisement.

I've already seen to the payment to the Tomboy Princess to allow this advertisement. I'm looking forward to receiving requests from the various merchants that see the advertisement and are drawn to the shop as a result, so a minor expense is fine.

Well, even if I don't have any immediate expectations for profits, I do expect for this minor cost to pay itself off substantially in the future.

When we had finished clearing the streets of snow, the people began to once more fill the streets. Normally the Royal Capital would be slightly quiet due to the level of heavy snow fall, but as it was now, a good portion of the liveliness had returned as a result of the cleared streets. It's a good thing I suppose, but not the targeted result.

As a result of the advertisement, we did have many more customers. The main reason was mostly because of the sale's last day though.

Since the goods were only remaining this cheap for today, news had already spread throughout the Royal Capital Osvel, causing it to become somewhat famous over these last few days.

The roads being cleared and the advertisement only served to further increase the business revenue. The store was blooming with activity.

At any rate, there are quite a few more customers today. It's certainly a good thing, especially since we will not need to close now, this can lead to new profits in the future.

However, since it's quite busy today, it's not that easy to manage since we're still inexperienced with it. It probably would get easier over time, but for now it's a semi-major pain.

Doing a surprising amount of non-stop work until the evening caused most of our shoulders to go stiff with heavy levels of fatigue.

I would say that, rather than being tired, it was more stressful trying to service all of the customers today.

I want to use the hot springs...

Day 197

Today the group is staying in the Royal Capital. Sadly, there's not much going on right now.

Even after the sale ended, there are still quite a few customers coming to the shop and the construction within the building is still ongoing.

The snow is still falling and the [Skeleton Spider] transportation has become a full-scale business.

That's the story for today because nothing's really going on.

I suppose I'll focus on what the other groups have been up to since there's nothing exciting going on. To be more precise, the main group that's at the base.

First, let's go over the Female Knight. She had offered her sword in loyalty to me, just as the other people who were caught in the Forest invasion a few months back, such as the Clergymen and the Red Fencer, both of which are guarding the base back in the Kuuderun Forest.

She had participated during the recent battle in the coup by hiding her identity behind a mask and managed to slay several dozen officers, greatly contributing to the course of the battle.

As such, she was sent back on a tourist route and able to visit various cities.

Along the way, there were quite a few requests for Parabellum, though I still don't know where our name was leaked in the Sternbild Kingdom, but it's to be expected that our renown would spread.

I only chose members that can accomplish the requests to accompany me to go and accept them.

Fortunately, the Female Knight was presumed dead during their previous war with the elves, so even though she's the daughter of a high noble family, she won't be recognized easily. That said, the chances someone might recognize her weren't zero, therefore, her group had to keep their sightseeing within normal bounds and had returned to the base rather quickly.

She's recently taken up going on strolls through the vast forest of ours, either going alone or with several of her subordinates, gathering up various materials on her way. The forest is vast and is gradually spreading with a constantly growing vitality like never before. This is causing even more Spirit Stones to show up that are of an even greater quality. The quality thus also produces even better materials and is probably linked to the expansion and improvements of the hot springs. To know where good materials are depends all on information gathering. While she and her subordinates are collecting materials, they also were making a map with the locations of various materials marked. For this, I'm grateful. Once I return home, I fully intend to give her a dress that's an [Ancient] class artifact from the [Age of Gods] dungeons. Hmm, as for the other members, I suppose liquor and sake should be acceptable.

...

A certain Kobold that had [Ranked-Up] from a Kobold Footman to a Kobold Samurai went into the [Derived Dungeon] in the Labyrinth City. He had gathered up people who failed to achieve suitable achievements during the war and led them in diligently raising their levels while gathering magical items. If they are able to gather a certain amount of equipment, I'll probably give him a Falaise Eagle as a familiar.

Though I don't expect much from them, the dungeon capture speed was fairly faster than I had assumed, probably because of the strong devotion and loyalty from the Kobold Samurai that had taken command. Unfortunately, during their dungeon conquest, a few of their party were killed, which immediately made it clear that the dungeon they took on was dangerous and that the dangers of the dungeon only increase as you progress. Such things do tend to happen no matter how much you prepare for it. As such, I offered a silent prayer for the passed souls so that they may rest in peace. I don't hold the Kobold, Akita,

responsible for the casualties. As for what happened, Akita had attempted to do just about as much as possible, but the abilities of those who were killed were simply insufficient for the difficulty of that dungeon. The fault is on those who attempted something they were not ready for.

The magical items were gathered smoothly for the most part. As such I have also begun the preparation for creating a branch designated for the operation within the Labyrinth City Purgatory. It will be convenient to open a branch within Purgatory since even though the official main office has been opened within the Royal Capital, a great deal of my business is with the Labyrinth City, so it's just as important from my point of view.

Anyway, after becoming a Kobold Samurai, Akita's intelligence is far higher than when he was a Kobold Footman. As long as his extreme loyalty doesn't cause him to become too reckless, he will end up becoming quite reliable.

There are many subordinates who end up working desperately to accomplish their mission if it's me giving the order. In that sense it saves me quite a bit of trouble in the end.

I wonder if I should reward Akita's efforts. There's the occasional sword that flows in from the east and they're fairly famous blades at that. I think one of those would serve as a good reward for Akita.

…

I wished Minokichi-kun and Oniwaka's group good luck as they continued their energetic genocide of monsters. This is because, rather than in a Purgatory dungeon, they are hunting monsters in a natural danger zone. Even though the probability of encountering monsters within dungeons is much higher, in nature there is a far larger variety of monsters. They simply cannot afford to be caught off guard during their escapades, because if they do, they'll face a significant counterattack as a result. The reason for this is because unlike the dungeons, the strength of monsters in nature is not uniform and can vary quite a bit.

The strongest monster within their danger zone is the [Wisdom Dragon] which is an unbelievable existence because of its humongous strength, and is even considered strong by the standards of mighty Giants. More often than not, monsters of such levels only exist in the depth of the countless unexplored mountain ranges, though there are still exceptions such as ones that live in areas like the waterfall near Mason Village.

I'd have to say that Minokichi-kun's group is lucky they haven't encountered one yet. They don't have enough time to delve into such depths though and are only capable of finding bosses on the levels of the Red Bear or Jade Eagle.

No, all boss class monsters are formidable enemies, but since both of the examples I used, the Red Bear and the Jade Eagle, have [Divine Protection], it makes them even more frightening than the usual monster.

For Minokichi and Asue however, considering their monstrous strength and unnatural good luck, the threat level is considerably lower than the norm. Knowing that they will assist when necessary, I hope that Oniwaka will have grown twice as strong the next time I see him. There might even be the chance for him to [Rank-Up]. As such, I impatiently wait for them to bring back materials and the corpses they've gathered along the way.

...

Avenger is doing a variety of requests along with Rusty Iron Knight and Scarface. The requests mostly consist of eliminating thief and bandit camps, or subjugating dangerous monsters causing havoc for towns and villages who offer up the quests to remove them. I'm guessing that most of the missions are taken up by Avenger because of his ruined hometown. The appearance of Avenger taking up said tasks was akin to a violent rampage with bloodcurdling roars. Combine that with the fact he's wearing a demon mask to hide his identity and it's enough to make people want to call him a demon. When they encounter him, the bandits, thieves, or whatever dangerous monsters it may have been, are all slain within the blink of an eye before they even have the chance to feel fear.

Without wasting time, using accurate information gathered by my clones, Avenger was able to understand the problems and immediately resolve them, thus earning the trust of his clients.

Even though currently they only get paid a few silver coins per request, in the future, they'll have gained much trust and reputation; so it's good for Avenger and the others to do their best even if it's only for chump change.

If I'm not mistaken, Avenger still hasn't met his companions, or rather, his [Sub-Cast] characters from his [Psalm] yet. As such, I pray that he will encounter the [Witch of Youkai Flames], the [Cavalry Defender], the [Usurper] and the [Holy Woman of Compassion]. Because I've already been informed that out of the four, both the [Witch of Youkai Flame] and [Holy Woman of Compassion] have already awakened their power, I thought it likely he'd encounter them if I sent him out on more requests.

Personally, I think it's alright since it's increasing Avenger's combat strength and overall profit for Parabellum; but Avenger's area of activity will probably need to expand to encounter his fated companions.

I feel rather good. Overall situation is generally favorable and the future of Parabellum looks bright - I think. Well, that's my feeling for the time being.

That night when I went to bed:

【World Psalms 【Legend of the Black Eclipse Demon】, 【Sub-cast】 character Seiji has ranked up.】

【Condition "1" 【Rank Up】 has been cleared, title 【Merciful Father's Light of Salvation 】 has been awarded.】

【World Psalms 【Legend of the Black Eclipse Demon】, 【Sub-cast】 character Gurufu has ranked up.】

【Condition "1" 【Rank Up】 has been cleared, title 【Rotting Guide of Severe Misfortune 】 has been awarded.】

Hmm, I was just thinking that it was about time to contact her, but I decided that sleeping was more important. Something to look forward to tomorrow then.

As for Gurufu-chan, it's best to not joke about her [Rotting One].

Day 198

Well, because of the announcement last night, I had 2 people to contact to confirm the results.

Obviously enough, the two people to contact were Seiji-kun and Gurufu-chan.

Seiji-kun had [Ranked-Up] from a Half-Saint Lord to a Saint Lord Variant. The reason behind the variation was due to him receiving the [Divine Protection of the Demigod of Love] and his physical appearance is somewhat adult-like form now. His current appearance is akin to a rather unhappy, yet rather handsome young man.

Besides the specialties of his class type, his own physical abilities are now higher than the average human, but it's still completely unreasonable to expect him to fight on even terms in physical combat.

It's highly likely that he would lose in terms with an average human that held a job such as [Job-Knight].

Because of his healing and defensive capabilities, combined with the fact his mana supply has grown remarkably, I fully intend to have him work even harder in the future.

Aside from that, he also gained a rather interesting ability which allows him to manifest weapons from his [Ogre Orbs].

He is fully able to manifest rustic silver weapons such as a silver mace, shield, and a small amount of golden lining that seem to be decoration.

The shield itself is roughly the size of a buckler with a reflective force field, which can expand according to Seiji-kun's intent.

He certainly didn't have such an ability before, and after some thorough investigations that I had requested, he seems to be able to expand the shield to become as large as Minokichi-kun's Fortress Shield. It also appears that even if it gets that large, the weight remains almost the same. This will certainly allow Seiji-kun to not only protect himself, but also a large number of his fellow comrades.

As for his healing capabilities, they are far stronger than even his defensive capabilities, allowing him to greatly reduce the strain on his compatriots.

As for the mace's ability, I need to say that it's above just being interesting. His mace is a considerably heavy blunt-type weapon that's roughly ten kilos and is far stronger than usual maces. This is probably due to it being a weapon manifested from his [Ogre Orbs].

When it strikes an ally, the mace seems to regenerate the ally's vitality proportional to the amount of damage one would normally receive. He was hesitant at first, but with a bit of force I persuaded him to strike to show visible results.

Of course the mace will still deal damage to the usual enemies and monsters, but the idea of beating a wounded or incapacitated ally with a large mace to help them doesn't sit right with him, or me for that matter.

Even if the blow doesn't result in pain, the impact is still there.

I finally managed to convince him to smash the head of an ally who was covered in wounds, it also took the person in question being directly ordered by me to stand still. The result, his wounds all over his body were more or less healed. We determined that if the blow would be akin to a fatal strike, the ratio of healing would be far greater than normal.

Yeah... It still doesn't really look right.

As for Gurufu-chan, she [Ranked-Up] from a Ghoul into a Fimerotto Variant. Similar to before when she was a Ghoul species, she still looks pale with lifeless skin and black hair, and her black [Ogre Tattoos] haven't changed. But you can certainly say that her physical

appearance and body structure have become more elegant. It is almost as if she has become a beautiful doll.

She has gained a living body armor that is akin to a clean white dress with high heel shoes. It really makes her look like the daughter from a high class nobleman's family and suits her quite well.

She would have no problems gaining access to a ball. If I were to think about it, this should make her quite popular.

In fact, she would certainly make it into the top 10 most beautiful woman in Parabellum if not for the rotting flesh and nature of her class.

To mention, I have overheard gossip between other members that basically come out to be like:

"Gurufu-chan's misfortune by her abilities is nothing to laugh at...",

"She's beautiful when she's not active ... though when she's silent, those dark eyes ... rather unpleasant",

"I'm serious, the hobbies she has are lethal!",

"She's rotten..."

Such were the nature of most member's opinions on Gurufu-chan.

They aren't just bothered by her mentality, but also the fact that her race has the ability to corrode just about everything she comes into contact with unconsciously. Organic or inorganic, it doesn't matter.

I'm torn between pulling some strings to influence [Rank-Ups] to gather people of a similar species for her to interact with, or to step back because it would be favoritism...

This is a problem.

As for the names of the 2, I don't see a need to change Seiji-kun's name for the time being, but for Gurufu-chan, what could I change it to.

Furokusa-chan..?

No ... she isn't able to enter the hot springs easily since she ends up causing the water to rot. Furo means hot spring, so I think it'd be a bitter name since she is bothered that she can only rarely use the hot spring after extreme preparations are made.

Ugh ... I'm troubled, oh so troubled.

I really can't think of what her new name could be.

How about Irokusatta-chan which means various forms of rot ... or possibly Kusattairo-chan ... I suppose that one fits.

Though, why did I just name her the color of rotting flesh and then change it around to make it Irokusa-chan...

I can't help but sigh instinctively since, when I visit someone to pass on a new name, they always have an expression showing their wild delusions about their name. It can't help but cause me to feel miserable sometimes.

At any rate, I need to prepare their gifts for their [Rank-Up]. Since 2 more members of the 8 Demon Generals have been found, I should make their celebration even more luxurious.

Currently, only 7 of them are known:

Minokichi [Emperor of Shimmering Axe]

Kanami [Empress of Ice Kingdom]

Asue [Underground Thunder Hammer]

Supesei [Calamity Star Priestess]

Burasato [Frightening Blade of Dried Rust]

Seiji [Merciful Father's Light of Salvation]

Gurufu [Rotting Guide of Severe Misfortune]

The remaining one... I wonder who it will be.

So far, those classified to be part of the 8 Demon Generals are only out of those from the same generation.

As for the last person, I can only think that it will be one of the people from my generation in the [Goblin Community].

I think that it would probably end up being Dodome-chan that has the highest chance of gaining the spot, otherwise it will be from the 5-Ogre squad.

It will probably be her since she is fairly strong, but it can also be the 5-Ogre squad since they can be treated as if they were just one individual. As it stands, the 5-Ogre squad gives off the feeling as if they were a single organism, so the chance they [Rank-Up] into something unique is possible.

Well, it's best to be patient and wait until it comes to light. Since the amount of experience they gain will demonstrate their capabilities and their level. I'll probably find out soon enough.

This will be good.

Today's Synthesis result:

【Wyvern Scale Formation】 + 【Solid Armored Dragon Scales】 + 【Shell of Hard Dense Chitin】 + 【Sharpened Shark Skin】 + 【Black Demon's Impervious Hardened Skin Armor】 = 【Black Demon King's Laminated Dragon Armor】

Day 199

Today marks the first real holiday in quite a while.

Well, even if I say it's a holiday, the store is still open and everyone, including the Female Samurai, are still working. Though, because they work in shifts now, they are able to take breaks when necessary.

The same members have been passed off the charge of managing the Skeleton Spiders. While they may not be getting a day off, they are also operating on shifts, so everyone is able to have some time off.

Each person is free to choose how to spend their time. Some decided to simply train themselves as per norm while others decided to leave the Royal Capital on the Skeleton Spiders to sight-see or visit attractions in the surrounding area. There are even some people who have picked up side jobs or studying various materials.

Since it's worth mentioning, I decided on going alone to the Labyrinth City Aquarium. The purpose was to of course challenge the [Age of Gods] dungeon [Aquarium Forlia] once again.

Even though last time there wasn't enough time to fully explore and I had to stop at the very first floor, I had made up my mind to come back. Now I'm determined to head down to the deepest part of this dungeon even if it takes a few days to do so.

If necessary, I can always pass instructions to Kanami-chan through the ear cuffs. Even if something serious occurs and I'm deep within the dungeon, she'll be able to manage it, so there's nothing to worry about for the time being.

Additionally, since I had already passed off most of the bothersome and innumerable quantity of work to my subordinates, there wasn't much work that was necessary for me to

complete. None of which needed my immediate attention, and thus I have found myself here.

I made sure to only give the work to those who proved themselves to be rather reliable, so I can relax as I challenge an [Age of Gods] class dungeon alone. I also take pleasure in knowing that the construction system that I set up will see progress and proceed without delay regardless if I am there or not.

Challenging the dungeon alone is the only way I can hopefully rid myself of the utter dissatisfaction caused by being only able to consume a single person of [Hero] level during the coup.

I had even had the first-class Water Hero meat sitting right in front of me after I had worked hard to beat him around to tenderize the meat, and I had to endure it since It was an order from the Tomboy Princess. That, and so that he could grow even stronger, but I certainly have no reason to hold back here.

After all preparations were complete, I delved straight into the [Aquarium Forlia] dungeon.

Just like the ones before it, the decorations in the long and wide passageways make it seem as if it were the interior of a sacred temple. A sacred temple with the floor submerged in ankle-deep frigid water of course.

Overall, the place does give off a certain majestic atmosphere that makes it feel difficult to invade as I am. The labyrinth gives off a pure and somewhat innocent feel that is almost akin to a work of art.

Alone, I slowly advance.

As I progress with a semi-carefree attitude the dungeon monsters continuously come flying at me without a sound. Most of them come from the shadows in my general vicinity the moment I get close enough. Like before, the main monsters that attack me are the Iolite Elementals, which of course I knock down quite easily. They look like round blue orbs clad in running water that makes them seem comparable to a flying slime.

Well, the Iolite Elementals clearly win out in terms of danger and pure fighting power if you were trying to compare one to a slime.

Not only does it have substantial movement speed and physical strength, but it also can use third rank ice magic as easy as if it were breathing.

The magic it uses is dangerous enough that the first shot it fires is likely to kill people. I catch the nucleus of the Iolite Elementals with my silver arm before it is able to do anything.

The moment I pull out the blue round orb from the surrounding water, the water that is approximately 8cm in diameter, loses its binding force and falls to the ground, where it merges with the water on the floor.

After seeing it, I ate the nucleus I caught.

The nucleus' texture and taste was just like a piece of slightly sweet candy. It might work well as a snack.

Ability gained: [Purple-Blue Iolite Liquid]

Together with the ones I previously ate, I seem to have finally gotten a new ability. Because I killed 23 of them last time and ate them after putting them in the item box, it seems the 24th gave me an ability.

It seems learning can be done quicker than expected, I'm relieved. I immediately used it to see what it does.

Apparently, [Purple-Blue Iolite Liquid] allows the user to cover themselves with flowing water just like the Iolite Elementals.

The running water is like an armor that clings to the surface of my body when I use it and it seems to have very high tolerance against fire attacks. On the other hand, it seems to be weak against lightning attacks, but it still seems to be a useful ability.

Currently, I'm in a good mood, so I went to hunt Armored Scissors which possess a very hard carcass and Dirotonis which is a gigantic fish in succession. I didn't stay on the first floor for that long, because I found the path to the second floor last time I came to the dungeon.

After I found some treasure chests along the way and opened them, lopsidedly hunted a great number of dungeon monsters, avoided some powerful traps and passed other adventurer parties, not even 1 hour had passed.

By the way, the structure of the second floor is no different from the first floor. The corridor of the second floor is a bit bigger than the one in the first floor and there are several monsters that didn't appear on the first floor that appeared here.

Water Anacondas are anacondas about 9 meters long and 30 centimeters wide, their bodies also release fluids that act as lubricants.

Evil Battle Frogman have muscular human bodies and exceed 2 meters in height. They have the head of a frog, webbed feet and carry a trident and a fishing net.

Mizumoridori are light blue birds that fly at high speed. They have harpoon-like beaks and sharp claws. They don't appear in passages, but instead in small rooms and they are about 60 centimeters long.

These are the main monsters in the dungeon because they are the ones that appear most often and give off a dangerous feel. There are also others such as devil insects and reptiles.

Although the monsters are larger and stronger than normal ones because they're strengthened by the dungeon, I can still approximately kill them with a single blow and by overlapping abilities. Their level is not high enough to have a chance to kill me. Nevertheless, capturing this dungeon is certainly going to be difficult. The chance of being

attacked here is higher than in [Vesper Cave]; it is also more time and energy consuming to kill the monsters with a single blow.

The classic pitfall trap, where a lot of Water Anacondas gather, makes the dungeon especially difficult to capture. It's hard to spot because of its simplicity and the fact that once you've fallen in, it's normally impossible to get out.

In the first place, once a person falls in, the Water Anacondas immediately use their bodies to strangle and crush the person and due to the pit being covered by the lubricant made by the [Water Anaconda], climbing out is difficult as well.

I personally may manage to ward off the Water Anacondas if I equip solid armor over my whole body, but getting out of the pit is, in and of itself, another problem.

By the way, when I stealthily looked around a corner of the passage, I witnessed the state of a party of adventurers who got stuck in a pit.

The unfortunate party members seem to have all fallen into the several meters deep square pit and they did not have the ability to get out.

I only observed and did not help them because whatever happens in the dungeon is your own responsibility. The group of 5 that fell into the pit were all strangled to death by countless Water Anacondas.

The ones in the back lines immediately had their bones and equipment crushed, but the vanguard who wore magical armor from head to toe was able to hang in there for a while, but was also slowly crushed to death The pit swallowed the five corpses whole and slowly covered itself again. It was slowly and carefully waiting for the next victims.

After seeing that, I intentionally walked into the pitfall and fell too.

I could not miss the opportunity of hunting the high concentration of [Water Anacondas]. Normally, It would be a fight where I would be desperately struggling, but due to [Electromaster] spreading through the anacondas' body fluids, I was able to catch them all

at once. Afterwards, I decided to solely eat them starting from the head. The power of [Electromaster] drastically raised the power of my lightning strike, but unexpectedly, the Water Anacondas did not instantly die. However, since I was able to eat them alive, I guess the results are acceptable. It's a good thing that they're tasty alive.

Ability learned: [Lubricant Body Fluids]
Ability learned: [Water Seeking Snake]

Since I already got 2 new abilities, I decided to keep the remaining [Water Anacondas] as souvenirs. [Lubricant Body Fluids] is similar to [Self Body-Fluid Control], but it had a better effect when I tested it with simple substances. The smooth skin is able to completely ward off attacks to a great extent.

Even if I get restrained by an enemy, I can very likely easily slip out.

Honestly, I don't think I really need it, since I can transform my body, but it might be useful for surprising enemies.

[Water Seeking Snake], simply put, is like dowsing. Its effect seems to be finding nearby bodies of water.

It is necessary for Water Anaconda to push water outside of its body, so it's likely that they use this ability for replenishing and maintaining their water supply.

Even though it has limited uses, it's a very convenient ability in many situations, since it'll help me find hidden water even in the desert.

I collected the accessories from the bodies of the dead adventurers, and I jumped out of the hole excited.

Because their dead bodies were already eaten by the dungeon, I was really grateful for the items.

Because I fell into the hole after the Water Anacondas ate their body, only an index finger was left at the bottom of the pitfall.

I feel I have advanced quite smoothly while capturing the dungeon.

I had a harder time finding the stairs to go down to the next floor because this dungeon is wider than the derivation dungeon, but I somehow managed to get down to the 5th floor in one day. I arrived in the safety zone just before the large room in the deepest part of the 5th floor which is where the boss awaits.

After having the dungeon monsters as a midnight snack, I decided to challenge the boss tomorrow morning.

In order to fight it tomorrow morning, I went to sleep early to get enough rest.

Because I took the Skeleton Centipede out from my item box, I was able to get a good night's sleep in the chilly cave.

Day 200

Mmm, perhaps this is a bit sudden, but I think I'll discuss the Ogre 5. The Ogre 5 are made up of the 5 goblins that had decided it was a good idea to attack me in the middle of the night. They were repulsed quickly though and have worked themselves to the bone as my slaves since. On the day they attacked me it was with the good intent to help their starving comrades, thus they were only trying to get me to share my food with the starving.

Basically they were indirectly trying to save the weak, a rather unusual desire for the average goblin since it is in the very nature of a goblin to submit to the strong and oppress the weak.

Well, I can't call them renegades or vigilantes, but the 5 of them just seemed to have gathered in one place and united under a single goal. For the Ogre 5, villains and enemies, no matter how they beg for mercy, will be slaughtered without hesitation. In normal circumstances, they keep rather cool heads, but if one of their comrades, women or children are threatened and failed to save them, they would get rather distraught.

Ogres that have a similar mentality to humans is rather unique, so I suppose it can just be attributed to their individuality.

Personally I don't see it as a bad thing.

First off, thanks to such a personality, the 5 have superior confidence and work hard and beyond on their abilities, thus becoming strength for me.

The Ogre 5 were stationed at the border between the Sternbild Kingdom and the Kirika Empire. Just today they had saved an armed group under assault from some Orcs, saving the daughter of a Count from the Kirika Empire. They simply could not abandon the human party and thus rushed straight in to gallantly save them.

The Count's daughter was accompanied by a detachment of rather muscular guards and had not only delayed, but significantly reduced the number of Orcs. It would seem that the Orc horde were being led by an Orc Mage. The result of the Ogre 5 joining the fray resulted in the total annihilation of the Orcs.

They then met with the Count's daughter who requested their escort since her current guards had been greatly depleted during the struggle. Being completely unable to refuse the pleading woman, the Ogre 5 are currently accompanying the Count's daughter as they go deeper into Sternbild Kingdom's territory.

It would seem that the Count's daughter was traveling under the radar, carrying documents from the Tomboy Princess. It smells like rather small business, so I wasn't rather interested in the details. Kanami-chan is in charge of the fees for our services so there was no need for me to get further involved.

Back to business.

After breakfast, I opened the door into the Boss room and began to wait.

On the fifth floor there was a rather broad, square-shaped room with walls that had to measure at least 100 meters. The walls were decorated just as the corridors, made to seem similar to that of a temple, the air pure. If there were undead monsters here, I think they might seriously take damage with such clean air.

Well, I couldn't just leave it there so I summoned a Black Skeleton to test it. It almost immediately turned into smoke as a result.

On the ceiling were the faces of countless gods, with 5 painted pillars in homage to the Great Gods in the middle of the room. The black pillar most likely represented the Great God of Origin and Demise.

On the pillar was a depiction of someone, it wasn't really clear whether it was a male or a female person. In their hands, a spear forged by misfortunes. It is probably because of the

fact this person has the same divine protection as I that he looks familiar despite it being the 1st time I've ever seen him. There's a certain feeling of nostalgia.

Well, while I fell into a minor stupor staring at the depiction of the dark warrior, water began gushing out in massive quantities from the center of the room. The water quickly enveloped the entire floor of this huge room, raising the water levels up as high as my hips before it finally stopped.

The water was unusually cold, just a single step from it turning my entire body to ice. I have resistances regardless, but the cold still had an effect.

Just standing in this icy aura caused energy to leave my body. It was then that it appeared, throwing the water around it into turmoil as a huge horn shaped akin to a wave breached the surface as if it were a whale's head. The body was huge, 8 legs protruded from the massive hulk, it's 4 deep red eyes tirelessly watching its surroundings.

The entire body was covered by a dense skin that gave off a metallic, ultramarine sheen. The monster was simply massive, it was almost 15 meters long, stood 7 meters tall and was 5 meters wide. It was the boss of the 5th floor, the Warpidron.

The basic attacks it had were lightning attacks and strikes with its horn, the whale also spurted out torrents of water that had such pressure that it could easily cut through steel. It also had water jets to limit the movement of the enemy. Using its 8 feet and long tail, it was able to move through water at a frightening speed.

Normally adventurers would fight this beast in a whole group since he was far more powerful than the usual mid-boss of a dungeon.

When you think about how the water is up to the waist, the terrain is heavily to the Warpidron's advantage. For the enemy the sheer amount of water didn't hinder its movement as it was a marine beast, and thus only served as an advantage for it. Moreover, since it was a water style beast, the water only served to allow it to better reveal its power.

Well, I'm currently standing in front of this beast, numb from head to toe in this bitter water. The moment I felt the presence of a strong opponent, my appetite awoke deep within me. A sheer desire to eat this thing whole.

Since there was no need to suppress this intense desire, I took out the halberd from my item box and raised my battle cry.

With this I started the battle.

[Dungeon boss Warpidron successfully eliminated]

[Achiever Yatendouji has been recognized and the right to progress is granted]

[Achiever Yatendouji will receive the rare treasure [Storm Horn of the Great Whale] as a bonus for the 1st elimination of the [Warpidron]]

[Achiever Yatendouji has received bonus ability [Water Pulse] for the achievement [Solo Kill]]

After roughly 20 minutes the water had still not receded, so I pulled out the treasures from the Warpidron. It was a mix of various things such as gold, silver, precious stones, mithril, rare magical metals, and several pieces that appeared to be art. Well, if Blacksmith-san and the dwarves use these to work with, even they might start going overboard.

Well, the rewards this time were quite good, I won't complain.

In some party games there would be various ranked item chests that would have various rewards. In the largest box that I got from the Warpidron, the [Storm Horn of the Great Whale] ended up being the most rare of the items that I mentioned earlier. I decided to return later for more and put everything back into my item box.

Now I turned to the carcass of the Warpidron itself. The horn was removed, the skull divided and the eyes collected. The 8 giant feet were cut off, the body was cut to pieces and I kept the long tail whole.

The Warpidron had a rather serious vitality so every part of its body was rather heavily damaged before it died. The body was split apart and the organs spilled everywhere. The precious tail meat ended up getting rather damaged as well.

It looked like the Warpidron was a strong enemy, so I held back my stronger abilities and took my time with the fight, so I can't complain if the body is a bit roughed up.

I even ended up losing my living hand **(TL: right hand)**, causing me to panic just the slightest amount. Truly as expected of such a high level boss monster, counterattacking the moment I relaxed. Though, once I began to taste his flesh, the hand was recovered without any problem.

The meat was simply amazing.

Ability unlocked [Carrying Lightning Horn]

With this ability, I'm able to shoot out lightning from my 3 horns. The flash is rather bright so it does make it hard for me to see for that instant, but the power cannot be ignored. It can also be used without any preparation or cool down, so it has a convenience factor to it. I can use it in conjunction with [Electromaster] to further increase the ability.

I was tempted and thus went to enjoy the brain. I had smashed it rather hard, so it was close to soup when I went to eat it. The sensation from eating it was as if the language of the beast was washing over me, though the taste was rather basic.

The skull was as tough as metal, though it had a rather intriguing salty taste to it. I ended up mixing various parts together and enjoyed my meal.

Ability unlocked [Whale's Whistling Voice]
Ability unlocked [Battle Cry]

Well, as expected of the mid-boss, the strength of the dungeon was intense.

After eating a meal of both quantity and quality, it was rather easy to gain a few abilities, so I'm exceptionally happy. Of course, I ate most of the remains, but left some to bring back.

Perhaps it will improve Kanami's mood a bit, and I'll need to treat my kids as well. They'll probably welcome something as enjoyable as this with gusto.

Well, it was harder than I thought to stop eating, so I had to force myself by putting the rest into the item box while I had the restraint. The risk of the rest of it being absorbed by the dungeon also played a factor.

After finishing I went through a gate that had appeared after my victory. Going through it, I came across a staircase. Going down, I noticed the familiar decorations and patterns on the walls of the corridors. The concept was the same, but the patterns were more complex if you will. The air was even denser than before as well; I can't afford to relax anymore.

I didn't even take a few steps before water blasts aimed at my heart shot out at me. Ten silver perch attacked me, though I swatted them away and chewed on their meat as I went.

Today's goal is the safe room of the 10th floor boss.

Day 201

Moving through a rather confusing maze of rooms and corridors, slaying the myriad of attacking monsters along the way, I continued to make progress further and further into the dungeon. The further I managed to get, the wider each unique floor became, and the more difficult it became to progress.

Though, thanks to my [Mental Map Creation] and [Intuition], I was able to find and take the shortest route possible without receiving any injuries. Thus I was able to rest on the 11th floor today.

Yesterday was the cause of a fair amount of frustration as problem after problem occurred to ruin my mood. To begin with, the number of simple traps constantly increased which ended up delaying me. My abilities allowed me to avoid damage, but the constant traps led to many problems.

Compared to the beginning of the dungeon, the number of overhead traps increased greatly. Those ones were actually rather deadly and their effectiveness increased with a terrible speed with every floor I cleared.

If I didn't have [Sensor Phased Array], I would never have been able to avoid them all and my ability to progress through the dungeon would have been further delayed. The main problem, however, would be the dungeon's [Vessel Water Spirits] that are abundant within this dungeon. The dungeon itself seems to be shrouded in the [Divine Blessing] of some water spirit, so it has a great many water-related monsters.

To give an example, I recently got out of a small room that was filled with monsters. The moment an unsuspecting person enters the room and steps on the trigger in the entrance, the room will rapidly fill with water while the water-element monsters attack. Thus increasing the danger several folds.

The monsters are mostly water types which is usually not a problem, but for adventurers who are not a member of an aquatic race such as the Mermen, being either waist deep or submerged in water is extremely dangerous with these types of monsters. The chances of death for those who get caught in traps such as that one are very high. If not careful, entire parties could meet their doom when caught in those types of traps.

In addition, if the trap is activated, there is simply no way to stop it. The room will inevitably flood with water and can take up to 20 to 30 minutes before the water levels begin to decrease. The exit will open after that.

Luckily for me with [Water Body] and [Oxygen-less Function], even if I was caught in that trap, I would have been fine.

The severity of this dungeon is already rather high, but the lethality is only furthered because of the constant onslaught of monsters. During battles, there will often be monsters suddenly appearing from the deep water. Even if one is not knocked down and can receive the sudden monster's initial attack, the balance of the conflict can be greatly upset at critical moments. On top of that, pitfalls are even worse as weapons will come flying out of the hole as you fall in. Even if you dodge the pitfall initially, the water will rapidly flow downwards into it, pulling you towards it. The pressure of the water within those is usually so enormous that armor would end up crushed like paper.

There are also sudden torrents of water that will flood a corridor. These torrents are filled with monsters that will tear unsuspecting victims apart as a party's formation is shattered.

Due to the fact that everything about this dungeon is deadly, even if I managed to get through without taking damage, I still suffered a great deal through those trials. Though, it was mostly troubling because of just how many different traps simply led to a massive horde of monsters attacking you. Those took time to deal with and there were monsters constantly appearing in a near endless cycle.

Along these floors, the only monsters of note ended up numbering just 5.

There were the Giant Steel Toads that hid themselves within the environment, waiting for their prey. They were giant bull frogs almost 2 meters tall with steel scales and razor sharp teeth.

Another was the Combat Helmet Octopus that were clad in a knight-like armor, armed with live weapons in each arm. It was very skilled and was not hindered by the number of weapons, becoming a deadly beast.

The 3rd monster were the Hidden Jaw Sharks that typically hid behind corners or within crevices in the wall. As a person approached, the 2 to 3 meter body shot forward, grabbing the victim in its monstrous mouth.

The least deadly of the beasts was the translucent monster that floated in the air of the corridors. These were the Deadly Jellyfish that were roughly 80 centimeters in height.

The final monster was the Armored Blue Shrimp that was armored in a blue, chitinous shell, that would quickly rush and attack the victim.

To briefly go over what these monsters did, I suppose I'll describe them.

[White's Note: "AHHHHHHH, ROU, PLEASE NO, NOT ANOTHER 10 PAGES OF MONSTER DESCRIPTIONS! .... Oh look... only 9 pages of monster descriptions... thank's for being considerate for me Rou... just don't describe how each of them tast-.... oh gosh darnit all..."]

First was the Giant Steel Toads. They were the most common in the corridors and if you ended up getting distracted by the smaller monsters, they will target your legs and feet, breaking them into pieces. Since that was the case, it is necessary to be careful and alert at all times. According to the information I gathered, the toads have caused suffering to countless adventurer parties. Able to break through even magic armor, metal leggings, and various equipment, the monster has a huge mouth and sharp teeth. Even for adventurers who had managed to get to this point would suffer no small risk to life and limb when encountering them.

But, if one is able to detect them, the monster is rather simple to deal with. Though it does have a solid armor, the downside is that the monster is rather slow and is unable to dodge the attacks of the adventurers capable of reaching these floors. If the monster's surprise attack is foiled, then most adventurers would be able to handle them with ease with a single mighty blow to a weak point.

Having the easiest of times finding them underwater, I used an offensive ability to smash down on them, obliterating them in a single blow. To me, they simply aren't a threat. Whenever I detect them, I often would stick them with my halberd and fry them crispy with some lightning, allowing me to enjoy a skewer whenever I so desired. If I had the time, I'd have preferred to add some soy sauce and bake it until it was crisp to eat it whole.

Ability unlocked [Underwater Breathing]

The skill basically allowed me to breath underwater, but since I already have [Oxygen-less Function], I don't have a current use for the skill. Perhaps I'll find a use for it at some point.

Next was the Combat Helmet Octopus. They were typically within the range of 1.4 meters, but the main body was always protected by a knightly shell.

Each monster's shell is unique, I even saw a Norman's cross helmet on one of them.

Depending on the shape, decoration, color, they will end up having different equipment. Perhaps it isn't specifically limited to their armor, and is a way to distinguish their genders. Though in all honesty, I don't really have much information on it and lack the desire to find out.

Well, as is the same with their armor, each of their weapons are living weapons such as swords, spears and axes, but the shapes and decor of each of them varied greatly.

Each arm of the Octopod carried a weapon and was defaulted to rather high combat skills. The Octopods were able to fight both on land and on water. Their body's conventional strength was superior and were able to recover their limbs with frightening speed.

Each attack was like a wave of weapons, fast, accurate, and deadly. The weight behind each blow coupled with the weight of the weapons only furthered the lethal potential of every strike. When attacking simultaneously with 8 arms in perfect coordination, it was rather difficult to predict.

In addition to all of that, they would always be gathered in groups of either 4 or 5, significantly increasing the risk to life and limb. Their armor is so strong that it is able to block a steel sword with the greatest of ease. The only weak point on their entire body is their eyes.

Well, attacking them head on is no less dangerous as there were even some of the Octopod monsters that were magic based, allowing them to deal area of effect attacks. Inept adventurer parties could be broken in a matter of moments.

They were rather stiff and crisp, but as is most things, the more I ate, the more I want. It made me crave for more alcohol as well!

They are even advantageous to my appetite as all I had to do was rip off each of their limbs and leave it sit for several seconds. New legs will appear, allowing you to enjoy the meal even longer, though after several dozen repetitions, the monster's vitality starts to decrease.

Ability unlocked [Suction Cup Generation]

This ability basically allowed me to generate a suction point anywhere on my body at will. Rather well suited for stealth missions.

The Hidden Jaw Shark lives in the burrows of a variety of monsters. If you manage to detect them, they are hardly dangerous. If you avoid the holes, they will not come to attack. That's only if you discover the hole. If you are careless and wander too close, then you won't even be able to notice how you're torn to shreds at an incredible rate.

My 1st encounter with them was on the 8th floor. I had just happened across a conflict between the Octopods I mentioned earlier fighting against a party of adventurers. There

were 10 of the Octopods remaining against the 6 adventurers. When I came across the battle, the adventurers were outnumbered, but were showing a sheer superiority in coordination. The leader of the party was well experienced in both leadership and sword technique, leading them to an eventual victory.

Every one of them were highly trained fighters, able to dodge attacks while countering and inflicting wounds. If they couldn't dodge, they were able to competently block and negate most of the damage.

As expected of a group capable of coming into the lower levels of a dungeon from the [Age of the Gods] series. They were able to get past the 1st boss, so I can even give them a certain level of respect.

But then I noticed one of their members that was fighting on the front lines against a toad in their defensive formation. He was wielding an interesting sword that was exuding heat, while admiring the blade, I inadvertently approached several burrows of the Hidden Jaw Sharks.

Since they were busy with the enemy, the young man failed to notice the 2 sharks that launched from their holes and attacked him. It happened all in an instant before they returned to their holes. The young man lost both of his legs and fell to the ground, his abdomen ended up being pierced by the toad he was fighting. The water was stained red.

At that moment the adventurer party recovered their friend who lost his legs, apparently he managed to survive his injuries. As soon as they recovered him, they began to retreat back and the battle moved to another location.

After they left, I carefully approached the burrow of one of the sharks. Their appearance was a dazzling white body that was covered in fat. Meat within was a pure white meat that was both dense and rich. When mixed with the fat, it was an enjoyable taste that I would be happy to enjoy again. There wasn't even a fishy smell to the meat.

Ability unlocked [Violent Frenzy]

The Deadly Jellyfish floated through the corridors, though unlike all of the other monsters, they are rather harmless. They often swim in groups of 6 to 10, often blocking the entire corridor with their tentacles.

If I had not had [Poison Resistance] already activated in conjunction with [Pain Resistance], I'd have been gifted a few hours of writhing in pain.

Well, it turned out that they weren't extremely toxic, but the effect was achieved by a direct stimulation on the nerve endings of a victim. Since it wasn't actually a toxin, it was actually rather dangerous to me as it did have a slight effect on me. I opted to shoot them from a distance and carefully consume the body.

They tasted rather similar to jam, practically like a dessert.

Ability unlocked [Slow]

The Armored Blue Shrimp were constantly storming the corridors. The huge 2 meter tall body covered in blue chitin was pushed by its powerful tail, flying at the enemy at great speeds.

Well, a single hit to the head using their own force against them was more or less enough for me to kill them. It's just when there are dozens of them attacking you at once, clogging the hallway, is when they become a problem.

The meat was, to make it simple, a pure delicacy. The soft pink color of the meat invited an indescribable flavor shooting down one's throat.

This could become a present even for the Tomboy Princess.

Ability unlocked [Steel Shell of the Blue Shrimp]

While wandering through the corridors, not only was I able to gather a handful of abilities, but I was also able to gain huge quantities of experience. In recent days it hadn't been raising at all.

I was also able to level my different combat [Jobs] and [Arts] along the way. It was eating 2 shrimp for the price of one.

At that point I had finally reached the 10th floor where the 2nd boss room was located.

With the exact same type of opening as any other door in the corridors, I made my way inside.

The space inside was almost the same as the one on the 5th floor, a 100 square meter room with patterns on the ceiling and a circle in the center.

But unlike last time, the water didn't gush out from the center, only a gurgling sound of bubbles came from it.

From the circle appeared… to put it simply, a lizard-like skeleton called the Skeleton Raptor, that moved around inside of a blue slime.

It was just under 4 meters tall and it's overall structure was actually reminiscent of a Black Skeleton Knight, though it's tail made up a third of its size and there were an innumerable amount of thorns.

The teeth in its mouth were like daggers, the empty eye sockets glowed with a dark red light, seeming to focus on me.

The creature that covered this skeleton reptile was a furiously driven blue slime. The slime core was the the same color and was hidden away within the skeleton itself, the size of it was on another level than the other cores I've seen thus far.

This boss is apparently called the Skeleton Raptor with Slime Armor, the boss of the 10th floor.

Frankly speaking, because of the earlier designs that were designed with the sole purpose of cleansing the undead, I wondered what would happen if I pulled out the skeleton, but since it was a rather pointless venture, I gave up on it.

At the beginning of the battle, it summoned 2 massive living weapons that took the shape of swords, the slime itself now covered with hundreds, if not thousands of hands. It had the visage of a deity would look like.

Quite a few of those hands were able to use a variety of ice magics, mostly ice arrows or ice blades, and command water simultaneously. The number of variants exceeded 20 easily, the onslaught initiated immediately. The magic attacks never exceeded the 2nd tier, but simply because of the sheer volume of magical attacks, it had a serious advantage.

By this point, the Skeleton Raptor itself closed the distance on me and began attacking with its swords.

The attacks were as fast as the wind, so if you failed to dodge, you'd surely be sliced like paper. Both blades cleanly cutting through the air.

Honestly, with the continuous assault from the Skeleton Raptor was rather intense. Each blow of its swords were both powerful and fast, added to the endless wave of magic resulted in numerous chain attacks.

It was apparently designed specifically to fight numerous enemies at the same time, though unfortunately I was alone, and I am quite capable of handling 20 attacks at once.

Well, it could have been done faster, but the battle still only took a small amount of time.

[Boss Floor Skeleton Raptor successfully eliminated]

[Achiever Yatendouji, is granted the right to progress, continue past boss floor Skeleton Raptor is available with a choice of promotion without battle]

[Achiever Yatendouji, is granted the bonus of the treasure box [Clammy Corpse of the Water Lizard] for 1st elimination success]

[Achiever Yatendouji, is granted the rare ability [Water Arm of War] for the achievement of [Solo Kill]]

Well, it seemed that this boss's power was higher than the Warpidron, but only the same amount of endurance. Thus the battle only took roughly half the time as the Warpidron.

Normally, the non-stop physical and magical attacks from the Skeleton Raptor would result in more damage than the Warpidron, but given that it is my specialty, the battle resulted in a contest of power, where the difference was made clear.

Now, just as in the previous battle, I got myself another box of treasures. It seems like if I follow this tactic with the remaining I'll get more boxes of treasure. The box was the same as the last, just covered in the same slime as the skeleton was.

I decided to continue to collect these chests without opening them so that I could open them all at once, thus I put them into my Item Box.

I then went to swallow up the body. The bones took about 20 minutes to chew, which shows that it was certainly a high-level monster, and also meant that it tasted great.

You could probably compare it with bone soup full of juice.

The remains of the thing that covered the Skeleton Raptor, the Blue Slime, tasted like juice. The core that came from it was the size of a goblin's head. I sent it to the advanced [Demonic Great Whale Mouth].

The slime tasted similar to soda, but it was also cool, refreshing like mountain ice.

Ability unlocked [Sword Dance]
Ability unlocked [Parallel Use]
Ability unlocked [Symbiotic]

As a result, I gained a few interesting abilities. The [Sword Dance]'s use is rather apparent. It probably involves some sword form with 2 swords.

[Parallel Use] is likely the ability that will allow me to cast multiple spells at once. After I activated it, I could form various magics on each of my fingers, collecting water, forming a mini funnel of winds, forming a stone, and sending sparks out. This ability is extremely useful. In the past, I could always do the same with my abilities, but the limitation had been with my magic.

[Symbiotic] on the other hand is a rather funny ability.

It increases the chance of a parasite's infection. Now, not only do my parasites have the ability to influence others, but now can also increase the body's overall ability.

It serves to overall increase the body's combat potential.

Well, all of this was yesterday, today I started out with the 11th floor. According to my information, this floor is the best to gather materials. Perhaps a bit later than planned, but I think I'll be able to make the time up.

Loot is waiting for me, I can feel it.

Day 202

I decided to take a rest yesterday when I arrived at the stairs going to the next floor at the end of floor 14.

Because the corridors from the 11th up until the 14th floor had a much simpler structure than the ones I passed by so far, I might have arrived sooner at the 15th floor, if I had decided to dive fast.

However, because I got great results during the day I took for advancing, it wasn't a problem in particular.

If I would summarize the 11th to 14th floor in a single phrase, I'd call it a beautiful, spread out lake.

Even though it's underground, there's a blue sky with white clouds, and there was a pseudo-sun that brilliantly shone over the entire area of the floors. A countless number of trees grew around the lake, even if there's only a small patch of land.

I flew up to check it out, and blue sky and white clouds were drawn as a picture on the ceiling that was about 50 meters high.

It doesn't move, but from afar, it looks like the real deal.

Even though it was pointlessly elaborated, I was still amazed for a moment.

As I stood on the land that was in the center of the floor where this huge lake spread, I see a countless amount of big and small lakes scattered around on the horizon. The diameter of the huge lake slightly exceeded 1 kilometer. The surrounding lakes have extreme differences in size, ranging from a few ten meters to a few hundred meters, where the depth of this huge lake in the middle looks to be the deepest. The limit seems to be around 50 meters.

Only small plots of land seem to separate one lake from another, and they're submerged to the point that one's feet are already underwater.

I'd say that the ratio of water to land would be around 8 to 2.

Because my current location is pretty shallow and filled with spring water, it is transparent to such an extent that I can see the bottom. I can even spot the shadows of the dungeon monsters that are swimming around, and it almost seems like their bodies are swimming in the sky.

The feeling of being cooped-up that I had up until has disappeared due to this huge space, and the atmosphere has changed entirely.

When I drank it, the water had a nice clear taste, and the scenery was so beautiful that I had to admire it. This is a very good spot for sightseeing. Though it's extremely dangerous.

……Hrm, indeed. This is good.

By the way, the monsters that appeared here also seem to be different, as the dungeon monsters in the hallways and corridors seemed to favor quantity over quality, the ones from the 11th floor onwards seemed to favor quality over quantity.

The amount that you meet here at the same time is considerably lower, with 3 at most, though I cannot be careless as the strength of one equals the strength of several dungeon monsters from floors 1 to 10.

Additionally, the dungeon monsters here seem to blend in with the plants growing naturally around the lake, so it's difficult to advance on the little amount of land that there is.

However, I concluded that the dungeon monsters lurking underwater are even scarier, or should I rather say that they have a vicious nature.

I can't lower my guard for even a single moment. So this is what the work of a 【Demigod 】 entails, I see.

However, even though there is such a level of danger, the 11th to 14th floor, as well as the 15th that I didn't enter yet, are a famous place to make money.

The reason being that the chance of encounters with dungeon monsters is lower, and having a few excellent scouts as companions in your party makes it even easier to evade them. And it's not just the delicious bodies of the dungeon monsters on this floor, but there are also very rare dungeon items that can be easily obtained here that are hard to get somewhere else -- even if you can find them somewhere else, the quantity you can gather here is remarkably different.

The items that I was able to gather this time around are extremely varied.

At the top of the list are

- "Golden Carrots" that grows wild on the few patches of land here
- "Cannon House Onions" that I can gather on some parts of a sunken wooden ship at the bottle of the lake that's wider than 500 meters in diameter
- "Steel Scaled Arowana" that can be caught in lakes of around 10 meters
- "Silver Scaled Pirarucu" that can be caught in lakes of around 100 meters with the Steel Scaled Arowana as bait
- "Golden Scaled Coelacanth" that can be caught in lakes of several hundred meters with the Silver Scaled Pirarucu as bait.

It is also possible to fish on the huge lake with the Golden Scaled Coelacanth as bait, in order to collect ultra-high class ingredients that carry various special effects , such as huge

catch fish that you could call a dungeon monster “Fish Lord of the huge lake ・Great Catfish”.

There’s also “High Purity Medicinal Plants” that generally grow in spring water and have a high healing effect; “Spring Water Crystals” that endlessly produce water until they have deteriorated into powder; and there’s the magic item of super high quality “Large Fragment of the Suspicious Sun“ that I obtained from destroying the pseudo sun with my vermillion spear.

In addition there were a lot of treasure chests had sunken to the bottom of the lake and were still untouched, their contents was also received with a warm welcome. I also discovered a dormant deposit of rare magic metal in an underground canal connecting one lake to another, which I mined as much as possible.

It seems that basically the only thing that adventurers without any specific race or ability could do, was to gather the materials in the shallow parts. This led to the fact that the items on the bottom of the lakes, where the strong dungeon monsters lived, were pretty much left untouched.

Though I regretted that I didn’t have the time to search every lake between the 11th and 14th floor, I was still satisfied with the amount that I was able to gather.

Even the items that could only be found on land and in the shallow parts were already quite extensive, and thinking of the fact that these goods are already quite rare, I won’t lack any eye-catching goods for the moment.

I intend to bring Kanami-chan next time.

Mainly for sightseeing.

Thinking of things like that, I set off to the 15th floor early in the morning.

The world where the lake spread out into, didn't change. I travelled through it quickly while collecting suitable materials, as I aimed for the stairs to the lower floor that is located in the deepest part.

Though I discovered the stairs within a few minutes, I'll probably need to fight the floor boss. The circumstances looked a bit different this time around though.

A wall of rock that wasn't there up until now, surrounded the stairs, isolating it from the outside world.

On the inside of the rock wall, pure sand that echoed my steps to a certain extent spread from the entrance to the exit and a small pond of spring water was on the opposite side of the stairs.

As I advance on foot, the entrance behind me was suddenly blocked off by a huge rock that rose up. At the same time, the stairs in front of me were hidden by a large amount of water – a waterfall pouring down from the ceiling.

Though there was an escape path up until now, it seems that it is currently impossible to run away.

So you either kill the floor boss, or get killed by it?

And so, this place was properly set up, while the boss of the 15th floor, slowly rose up from the pond near the stairs.

The boss of the 15th floor was a huge crab.

It had thick shell dyed in an irregular patter of blue and red, its back covered by countless of hexagonal prisms formed out of Amethysts, Citrine, Rose quartz and Morion.

The massive, overpowering figure of the one facing me reminded me of heavy industrial vehicles, such as a dump truck or a bulldozer.

On its right hand, it developed saw-like scissors like a fiddler crab. It vibrated at high speed and sparked every time the blades touched one another, producing a high pitched sound at the same time. Four red compound eyes stuck out of the front edge of its cephalothorax and were observing its surroundings. Red and white bubbles were being blown out (*bubble bubble (sfx)*), dissolving anything they touched.

The floor boss' name was "King Crab ・ Crysora".

The shell and the crystal can be collected as materials for high-ranking magic items, and the crab is a delicious type of monster.

【Floor boss [King Crab ・ Crysora] successfully eliminated.】

【Achiever Yatendouji is permitted to proceed to the next floor, floor boss [King Crab ・ Crysora] can hereafter be passed without battle】

【Achiever Yatendouji has been Awarded the 【Crystal Crab's Bubble Poetry】】

【 Achiever Yatendouji has been Assigned the Rare Skill 【Crystal Resonance】 as a bonus for a solo kill】

King Crab ・ Crysora had the strong defense of the Warpidron, combined with the offensive ability of the Skull Lizard ・ War Salamander.

It had superior mobility that you wouldn't have thought due to its size and weight. Its claw vibrated at high speed and was easily capable of stopping and cutting through a powerful weapon.

It uses a ranged attack by spouting a countless number of bubbles that spout from its mouth that can dissolve anything they touch, which is difficult to evade. It also attacks through sound waves by resonating the crystals on its back. It was something you couldn't even see coming, let alone avoid if you didn't know the principle behind it.

Moreover its whole body emitted a red light that reduced its physical strength by a fixed amount, but rapidly increased his overall ability, which gave me a hard time for a brief moment.

When I kept cutting him down, King Crab ・ Crysora jumped almost as high as the ceiling after storing its power for several seconds. After that, it let out an attack by striking its scissors at the ground with all its strength. The attack didn't finish by hitting the ground after it jumped, as the energy released from the impact of the scissors was converted. This resulted in a high electric current surging out like countless big squirming snakes trampling down everything in their trajectory. On top, a large amount of sand and electric water was forcibly blown away, randomly cleaving the surroundings.

A direct hit would crush me to death. And even if I avoided it, the large amount of sand would mince me, or I would be stricken down by an infinite amount of lightning strikes. It was a dreadful attack.

If I didn't use 【Black Demon King's Laminated Dragon Armor】 right away, it would have been dangerous even for me.

Though I put up 1000 defensive layers instantly, the aftereffect of the attack penetrated the first 53 layers.

If it were a normal body, this would have been a fatal wound. I was sure I needed to take on some serious injuries.

Nevertheless I killed King Crab ・ Crysora in a little under 20 minutes. I put its corpse in my item box and advanced to the 16th floor.

Apparently, the 16th floor seems to be an underground lake.

The bottom of the stairs that I just descended, ended in a carved-out circle in a rock wall that stood on a small embankment in the center of the lake.

From here on out, I had to go underwater. I had to advance towards a tiny speck of light in the gloomy underground lake.

It is possible to breathe while diving, as there are places here and there that sporadically spout out air bubbles as well as places that had small rooms filled up with clean air.

Even though the number of traps has decreased significantly, I had to heavily protect my body's current condition from being frozen over by the ice-cold water while diving, which is a nasty condition if it goes too far.

By the way, as for the people who were able to come down here, given that the structure of the 16th floor is an underground lake, only a few handful were able to advance from this point on before.

That's why, there seem to be quite a lot of people that are satisfied with selling the large amount of items that can be found on the floors between the 11th and the 15th.

If you were able to gather a dozen items here, you'd be able to make enough money to go on an extravagant spree, which, I think, is to compensate for the risk you take diving in this subterranean lake.

Though, as long as there was a way to dive further, I should go forward to obtain high-level magic items that are incomparable to the ones found on the 11th to 15th floor.

Seeing as I had the means to continue, I began diving further.

The ice-cold spring water wasn't a big deal, and I managed to at the 18th floor by the end of the day.

In the darkness of the underground lake, fish type monsters were swimming – such as the "Regular Backer Chub" of around 60 centimeters that uses its thick lips to attach itself to one's meat in order to weaken and remove it, and the "Super Characin" of around 1 meter that attacks with its fangs and fins that are as sharp as the edge of a knife -- and even

though I had to plunge into the deep gloom to approach them, I didn't mind as they were very delicious.

Advancing in the gloomy subterranean lake was more mentally tiring than I thought.

It seems like if I would be untactful, my body would have been cut by protruding rocks.

Day 203

Yesterday, I hid myself in a small cave in the ceiling of the underground lake.

For breakfast: the King Crab・ Crysora that I didn't eat yesterday. Seeing as it was crab, I wanted to boil it in a pot, though I enjoyed the raw meat nonetheless.

The leg I pulled out had tender meat inside.

It's odd that a fragment of the meat of the leg didn't become tense, as it supported a big frame of a few dozen tons and still made it possible to do high-speed movements. The meat had a firm elasticity, as I bit off enough to fill my entire mouth.

And as I ate the crab bite by bite, each bite was accompanied with a burst of rich sweet flavor. The surge in flavor on my tongue hit my brain like a jolt of lightning, almost overloading me with dopamine and pleasure substances.

To be honest, it was more delicious than the Wyvern meat. The meat had a peculiar flavor, which made it very delicious. It's a very rich taste, which you wouldn't expect for a crab. Somehow it's refreshing.

【Ability learned 【Bubble Breath ・ Acid】】
【Ability learned 【Crystal ・ Quartz】】
【Ability learned 【Pressurized Thunder Cannon】】

Being overjoyed because I obtained many offensive abilities, I continued to swim in the underground lake today.

The underground lake has fewer traps than the others, and there weren't a lot of dungeon monsters either. But because there are rocks sticking out randomly, making some locations very narrow, I needed to be precise in my movements.

Looking around, I spotted small caves here and there, all of them on their own, without any direct connection between them. It is necessary to swim in order to go forward, and because it's so dim I am often close to being cut by the rocks.

However, once I got used to it, there were hardly any crashes and I was able to gather items along the way, while I went forward as fast as possible.

I was able to arrive at the deepest part of the 20th floor just before noon.

A large circular space was hollowed out here, very different from bare rock surface that remained, with a diameter slightly exceeding 100 meters.

Large bubbles bubbled up from countless of empty holes in the ground of about 10 centimeters. There appeared to be a small enclave near the ceiling that was filled with air, though it was very small. Overall, the battlefield was set in water.

The sources of light on the ceiling and the floor only consist of small amount of glowing shellfish and glowing moss growing naturally on the walls, making this a beautiful place filled in blue transparent light.

The name of the floor boss that you need to fight here is "Vortex Shell Turtle".

It descended the hollow-out circular space in the center, defended by a massive, extremely solid, moving shell. This huge blue turtle is around 8 meters.

The shell has a hardness that equals dragon scales, with a dozen of pointed protrusions existing on top of it. The protrusions are hollow on the inside, it looks somewhat like the image of a syringe.

While the Vortex Shell Turtle is not moving it manipulates the flow of water in the space with its protrusions. They suck in a large quantity of water, compress it and spew it out again. This creates a huge vortex that can catch an invader trying to attack and can suffocate him.

Even if the opponent doesn't die, he would have to pass through the solid shell protecting it and try to scrape it off with his attacks. *chima chima* This combined with the terrain makes it a formidable adversary.

Honestly, an effective capture method doesn't exist.

The thick shell has the ability to complete negate any damage below a fixed amount through either intense heat, lightning, ice and/or physics.

If you assume it's possible to win, you have to forcibly smash up the facade for which it's essential that you use overwhelming violence.

【Floor boss [Shell Turtle ・ Vortex] successfully eliminated.】

【Achiever Yatendouji is permitted to proceed to the next floor, floor boss [Shell Turtle ・ Vortex] can hereafter be passed without battle】

【Achiever Yatendouji has been Awarded the 【Shell of the Vortex Mary River Turtle】as a first time subjugation bonus】

【 Achiever Yatendouji has been Assigned the Rare Skill 【Sinker】 as a bonus for a solo kill】

Though the defense of the Vortex Shell Turtle was solid, once you force your way through the vortex, it's relatively easy to cling on for a moment and finish dealing with it.

It was simple work for me to destroy the shell as I beat it endlessly with my silver arm. I did need some time because it was a big bird to bring down.

After I killed it, I collected the corpse and the chest that was in the form of a turtle and continued to the 21st floor.

The 21st floor was an overturned river with pillars of milky white stone pillars next to it. There were 3 ships of magic metal.

Day 204

From the 21st floor until the 25th floor, I had to go forward by boarding a ship and going down the river that was surrounded by milky white stones.

At the bottom of the stairs, there was a mooring where 3 kinds of ships were prepared.

A small ship to board a single person.

A medium-sized ship to the extent that several people could get on it.

A big ship that can hold up a lot of people.

They're common ships that move through the magic power of the person entering it, and it can freely move by the will of the person that's registered as the captain.

I wanted to take them back home but I wasn't able to, because I couldn't put them in my item box. They look to be recognized as part of the dungeon.

It's disappointing, as they'd be very useful if I could take them back with me.

Each ship has a specific trait. The small ship is the fastest, but more fragile than the others. Its initial shape can be changed to resemble a surfboard to some extent.

The medium-sized ship is slightly slower than the small ship, but much stronger. In additional it also has a few ballistae installed. It's best suited for hit and run tactics. If you'd be in a basic party, this would be your first choice.

The big ship is the strongest, but the slowest. It has a lot of ballistae, and it's possible to generate a temporary defensive force-field by supplying additional magic power. As long as there are a number of people it will almost never sink.

That's the impression I have.

I chose the small ship.

I wanted to avoid useless mana consumption, since its power comes from the magic power of the person aboard. Besides that, I also wanted advance quickly.

And so, my choice is not wrong.

Dungeon monsters lay hidden throughout the entire river and something like a fort has been built behind a section of milky white stone, hidden in the surroundings, shooting off an attack in order to mercilessly sink the ship.

The sensation I'm having is that of surfing on a wave, which was incidentally caused by the cannonball I knocked down into the water just earlier.

If I wasn't on the small ship, it would have been a bit more troublesome. Even if I was able to protect the bigger ships, tiny holes might form, and it might sink.

Still, I somehow felt the attraction to this feeling, as I was secretly having a little fun.

By the way, the river was absurdly long.

The length of this space seems distorted and expanded to the extent that even if the ship travels at high speed, it would takes several hours to descend this floor.

Incidentally, along the way, there was a waterfall that dropped about a dozen meters, but through manipulating gravity, I advanced along the space that would normally be seen as the ceiling and walls.

And after traveling along the way, I finally arrived at the 25th floor. Apparently, the entire 25th floor seems to somehow be the battlefield for the floor boss.

As my small ship starts to descend, the river spreads out and becomes 5 times larger. I cautiously observe my surroundings as I propel the ship, while someone riding a huge fish appeared in the water.

It's a Gillman of about 4 meters high with its entire body is wrapped in a husk of silvery blue scales.

Its looks were sharp and well-featured with fish-like characteristics: on its cheeks, the top of its head and the back of its elbows were sharp fins with an indigo membrane. Its fat, long limbs have grown slender and well-proportioned. Webbing ran between its fingers and toes, made up out of an indigo membrane like its fins. You couldn't discern where its dark blue pupils were looking at. It wielded a 4-pronged spear colored in a sickening violet in its hand. All of its vital spots were naturally protected by barrel-formed scaled shells "Scale Armor". Looks like descendants of the former Gillman hero actually exists – "Dominaria・ Gillman Lord Rider".

This is the floor boss of the 25th floor.

By the way, the huge fish that Dominaria・ Gillman Lord Rider was riding, is a carnivorous shell armored fish type name "Ragon".

This monster fish was over 7 meters long, like a whale.

The battle with Dominaria・ Gillman Lord Rider was a drawn-out one.

At first, Dominaria・ Gillman Lord Rider didn't approach.

Basically, distance attacks seen to be the main way of attacking, as Ragon attacks by sending out a tidal wave with his gigantic fin, or spitting out a water ball from his mouth, while the 4-pronged spear automatically returns to the owner's hand after a throwing attack.

There's also dash attack where Ragon comes out of the water at high speed and the spear is thrust at me. Even though they can also perform short-range attacks, their frequency was extremely low.

Even so, I cut him in the intervals between his long-distance attacks, and as his physical strength fell below a certain value, he began to summon a countless amount of its "Gillman Knight" followers after that.

With traits resembling various fishes, such as sea devil and tuna, the Gillman knights, armed with tridents, circled the ship at high speed and concentrated their aim on the small ship instead of me.

Looks like they intend to sink it.

Because the Gillman knights that were attacking from the water were annoying, I kept evading their attacks with 【Hydro Hand】, while enjoying surfing. I occasionally thrust my halberd when I saw my chance, and enjoyed the fresh flavor.

If I would add soy sauce to this sashimi, it would surely be even more delicious.

Because I liked them, I put several of them in my item box, as the back and forth continued.

As it accumulated more damage, the close combat gradually increased as well, and while it became easier to hit him, I was having more difficulty dealing with his 4-pronged spear.

Dominaria・Gillman Lord Rider has the skill 【Spear Master】 which makes him an expert in wielding spears. His basic skill was higher than a Gillman Lord across the board because of his lineage, in addition to the bonus from the dungeon. Each single blow was fast and heavy.

Moreover, his spear is a magic item that has 4 abilities corresponding to the total number of spearheads -- 【Automatic Return】、【Deadly Fish Poison】、【Mental

Contamination】、【Physical Contamination】 -- it does wonderful damage even if you get grazed by it.

Especially 【Mental Contamination】 and 【Physical Contamination】 are troublesome.

If you continue to receive attacks, your body and mind gradually lose energy and you ultimately die.

I managed to avert his attacks with my halberd, though it grazed me several times while I was repelling it during the fight. Because of that I had to endure the pressure that gnawed at my body and mind each time.

When I was finally able to defeat him, the strong pressure subsided after some time, and I felt relaxed once relieved.

【Floor boss [Dominaria・ Gillman Lord Rider] successfully eliminated. 】

【Achiever Yatendouji is permitted to proceed to the next floor, floor boss [Dominaria・ Gillman Lord Rider] can hereafter be passed without battle 】

【Achiever Yatendouji has been Awarded the 【Ancient Flower Petals of the Silvery Blue Fish】as a first time subjugation bonus 】

【 Achiever Yatendouji has been Assigned the Rare Skill 【Water Ride Johnny】 as a bonus for a solo kill】

I collected the body and the chest that appeared, and as you'd expect after long battle, I took a short break before I advanced to the 26th floor. The 26th floor was a floor that was dominated by 1 giant whirlpool, which made it into a rapids zone.

Day 205

I can't really say anything about floor 26 to 30.

The basic structure is that of a huge basin.

Because it has a diameter of several kilometers, the slope is gentle. The closer you get to the center, the deeper it gets.

In addition, there's a huge whirlpool in the basin. The whirlpool influences the entire basin.

Even in the shallowest part of the circumference, my waist is submerged in spring water and if I relax, I'll be sucked into the rapids.

The stairs to the lower floor is in the middle. In other words, it's in the center of the whirlpool. If you surrender yourself to the whirlpool, it'll drag you to the next floor, though sometimes you have no choice but to swim against the current.

By the way, it was impossible to fly.

The moment I started to fly, a huge amount of spring water sprung up from the whirlpool and formed a water barrier blocking the entire sky. And when I wanted to charge through, the water became extremely hard, denying anything from passing through physically.

Even if I drew out my best attack, I was able to only penetrate a few hundred meters. If you'd compare this with the distance to the stairs, I would need around 10 minutes to arrive there. But because the hole was closed up immediately after, I have no other choice but to swim in order to go forward.

For the moment, traps are nonexistent in the whirlpool. – it can be said that the whirlpool compassing these floors is a fatal trap in itself -- while it's aided by monsters that generally appear.

In this situation, it becomes very difficult to evade because of the vortex, and caution is necessary as there's a possibility to be killed one-sidedly.

It was troublesome because I was being pulled from one place to the other. And when it became difficult to advance naturally, I began to swim forcefully in order to go forward.

Because there was a considerably low amount of treasure chests and dungeon items, there're not a lot of delicious things here. The only things were the monsters that appeared up until now.

It can be said that this is a kind of floor where you can advance very quickly if you want to.

And so, I arrive at the 30th floor faster than I expected. Despite it being surprisingly small because it was far away, I was able to see the boss of the 30th floor that waited at the center of this huge whirlpool: "Grief Charybdis".

Like with Dominaria・Gillman Lord Rider, the entire floor seemed to be a battlefield for the floor boss.

And because the whirlpool was influencing this floor, this greatly increased the complexity, more so than before. It became more and more violent as I got closer to Grief Charybdis. Looks like it'll be considerably troublesome to defeat it.

I intended to snipe it from a distance, but the moment I thought about it, countless of water barriers appeared and surrounded Grief Charybdis. Looks like I won't be able to subdue it by sniping it from a distance.

Thinking about the huge defense formation that was just set up, I'll have to accept that I have no other choice.

It seems to be difficult to approach the Grief Charybdis. It has a feminine body build, long hair in a blue-green color that expands to its waist, and a porcelain white skin. I'm not sure

where she's beautiful as she covers her face with a white mask. Only judging by her figure, she's a high class beautiful woman.

While trying to imagine what her real face is, I immediately jumped in the whirlpool, though I advance slowly due to its excessive intensity.

In order to get close to Grief Charybdis, I needed several hours.

【Floor boss [Grief Charybdis] successfully eliminated.】

【Achiever Yatendouji is permitted to proceed to the next floor, floor boss [Grief Charybdis] can hereafter be passed without battle】

【Achiever Yatendouji has been Awarded the 【Maiden of Grief】as a first time subjugation bonus】

【 Achiever Yatendouji has been Assigned the Rare Skill 【Vast Vortex of Grief】 as a bonus for a solo kill】

The Grief Charybdis was disappointingly weak, as I was able to easily subdue her once I reached her.

With no way to defend herself, she was vulnerable to being hit. Because she was so weak, I was able to finish it in one hit piercing her abdomen. Though I was reluctant as there was a beautiful Western face under the mask. Alas, I digress.

However, because she's so weak that she'd be killed immediately when approached, getting to the heart of the whirlpool that is generated around Grief Charybdis was very dangerous.

While Shell Turtle ・ Vortex attacked with whirlpools as well, the scale of this was remarkably different.

The whirlpool around Grief Charybdis encompassed the entire floor.

The whirlpool around Shell Turtle ・ Vortex only influenced the enclosed boss room.

The volume of water is different, the distance to approach is different, and above all the performance of the monster is different.

If it wasn't for 【Anaerobic】, this would have been a lot harder. I might have drowned.

After I caught my breath, I collected the chest and the corpse, and went ahead.

The 31st floor had a structure with a higher degree of difficulty.

Day 206

Kanami-chan, Supesei-san and the others were working on various things outside, but I wanted to capture the labyrinth first.

I ate Shell Turtle ・ Vortex and Dominaria・ Gillman Lord Rider for breakfast this morning.

I wanted to eat Shell Turtle ・ Vortex completely before it disappeared by being consumed by the labyrinth. Inside, it had the heart the size of a hobgoblin. I sliced that and its huge liver in the same way as sashimi and took the opportunity to barbecue two legs and eat it.

Instead of a particularly delicate flavor, the sashimi of heart and liver had a crunchy texture when I ate it. While I haven't eaten this unique taste often, it isn't bad. It would be tolerable with a swig of liquor.

I ate Dominaria・ Gillman Lord Rider together with a side-dish of Ragon.

I tensed up because the firm Dominaria・ Gillman Lord Rider had an enriched flavor, and while it was heavy, the aftertaste was refreshing. When I put it in my mouth at a specific temperature, its texture was out of this world. Inadvertently, I ate too much.

Ragon was a huge fish with a plenty amount of tallow, which had a delicate taste while still being though. Its pink body had a hint of sweet fragrance, which stimulated my appetite.

All these dishes were delicious, as I ate it heartily.

Because both floor boss were high-level monsters, my whole body brimmed with power with every mouthful.

【Ability learned 【Hardened Scaled Husk Generation】 】

【Ability learned 【Intermediate Summoning: Fishman】 】

【Ability learned 【Erupting Thorn Generation】 】

【Ability learned 【Shell Generation】 】

【Ability learned 【Multiple Shells】 】

There were a lot of generation abilities in particular this time around.

【Hardened Scaled Husk Generation】 and 【Intermediate Summoning: Fishman】 from Dominaria・ Gillman Lord Rider.

【Erupting Thorn Generation】, 【Shell Generation】 and 【Multiple Shells】 from Shell Turtle ・ Vortex.

It can be said that each ability goes well with each of their characteristics.

I immediately use 【Intermediate Summoning: Fishman】, and a Sahuagin appears, a monster that is one class higher than the lowest Gillman -- like hobgoblins relate to goblins. At best, I was able to summon a black Gillman Lord.

In addition, they possessed a moderate amount of intelligence, and they seemed to be able to act autonomously.

Though detailed instructions are unnecessary because they can move independently, in order for it to move with more precision, you'll need to direct it. I'm sure that for high-ranking ones, I won't have to say anything for it to act, but for now, it's go enough to go forward, I guess.

This makes subjugating a little easier, and they'll be a reliable big help in the future.

Thinking of this as a good omen in the morning, I continued my dungeon conquest.

From the 31st floor onward, it seems that you'll need to follow a myriad of waterways running in mid-air.

The stairs that I just descended earlier came out onto a single foothold, a semicircle of about 10 meters. Aside from that, there's nothing.

I cannot spot a ceiling above nor can I see the ground below. Really, there's nothing.

My current situation is like I'm standing isolated at an altitude of 2000 meters, perhaps that makes it a little bit easier to imagine.

Besides the foothold, it gives of that vibe.

I separated a part of my body in order to test it out, and a little while later it somehow appeared above, as it uneventfully passed by in front of me and continued falling.

Apparently, the space here looks looped.

After falling to a certain altitude it got transferred to the sky and… it fell again. Even though the possibility of crashing to your death disappeared, I cannot be careless as one awkward mistake will put me in this loop endlessly and will make me starve to death.

In order to advance, it was necessary to travel through the water cylinders of several meters thick.

I wanted to take a shortcut by flying this time around, but as I thought it, I wasn't able to fly because of a mysterious power on this floor. I tried it several times, but a limit was put on flying.

I gave up advancing in an easy way, and proceeded to steadily go through the waterway.

However, I'm not swimming.

Compensating with my magic, I used 【Intermediate Summoning: Fishman】 and summoned black Gillman lord, which I used as a surfboard.

Because of the effects of the rare skill 【Water Ride Johnny】, I was able to go forward without getting tired.

I truly think that there are a lot of uses for these summoning abilities.

The rules are as following: if one waterway is running below another waterway, it is possible to switch by dropping from one to the other, though once transferred to the one below, you're unable to go back to the one in the sky. As this is different from the planar variant I've come across so far, I had a considerably hard time with this three-dimensional maze.

Though the structure in itself is difficult, it's even more troublesome because of the dungeon monsters that are attacking without mercy.

The "Four-sided Rebelling Mantis Shrimps" have the size of a big bear. In general, they have the shape of prawns, with their whole body wrapped in a hard exoskeleton that didn't even get a scratch when attacked. A single blow from their hard tail with a sharp thorn can even cut through rock, while their four huge characteristic fists demonstrate a power like a bombardment.

"Blue Mermen Knights" attack in groups that are, regrettably, only made up out of males. Their well-trained upper body is equipped with a blue magic metal armor. The lower half of their body is that of a large fish that can swim in the waterway at high speed. Their hands wield excellent weapons such as a spears and thrusting swords that are easy to use underwater.

"Riot Sharks" are huge sharks with 5 eyes and they have a special organ that produces lightning from their body. Its pectoral fin is as thick and as strong as an animal's leg. The attacks follow very strange trajectories as its 9 fins have involved into a sort of tentacles with such suction cups like the ones from an octopus.

And so on.

As everybody is trying to throw me in the space outside the waterway, it might take me a few hours to ward them off.

Though as I arrived at the 32d floor yesterday, I was able to reach the deepest part of the 35th without taking as much time as I thought.

The floor boss of the 35th floor reigns over a huge water dome that is formed by a countless amount of waterways combining into one point.

In the dome, there was a perfect sphere of six meters, with a very smooth surface where I can't even discern a single unevenness.

It's not clear what material it's made out of, and despite the transparency, it was hard to see it inside the spring water. I wondered how the "Aquarium ・Ball Golem" attacks without limbs.

Does it attack by basically charging at high speed and using its super hard body? Well it also has 2 kind of water cutters that temporarily absorb water from the surroundings and release it reticulated, making it difficult to evade.

Its internal core can rampage and cause a great explosion, though I don't need to mind that for the time being as it looks to be a self-destruction technique and will practically not be used for that reason.

Compared to the Shell Turtle ・ Vortex of the other floor, it would be a close call in terms of its high defensive power. Just how much is needed to kill it?

You could say that this is the worst floor boss.

What's worst about this fellow in any case, is that it keeps on running away.

It’s very difficult to attack it head-on, because its flight is fast and complex.

【Floor boss [Aquarium ・Ball Golem] successfully eliminated.】

【Achiever Yatendouji is permitted to proceed to the next floor, floor boss [Aquarium ・Ball Golem] can hereafter be passed without battle】

【Achiever Yatendouji has been Awarded the 【Pursuer of the Fleeing Ball】 as a first time subjugation bonus】

【 Achiever Yatendouji has been Assigned the Rare Skill 【Underwater Stalker】 as a bonus for a solo kill】

The special characteristic of the Floor boss Aquarium ・Ball Golem, is that it used the battlefield to its maximum.

Despite the fact that the water dome was the final destination of the waterways, the moment you almost seem approach or attack it, it flees at high speed into the countless nearby waterways that surround the dome.

Although the conventional floor boss tries to kill you with all its power, it looks like this one is set on running from one place to another without fighting.

This strategy is surely effective.

This place, and this golem above all, give off the vibe that it’s absolutely not necessary to kill you. In other words, until you run out of energy, or until its body is broken, this existence will keep on running endlessly.

And the magic that serves as energy for Aquarium ・Ball Golem is drawn from the dungeon, though a living body will become tired. It can escape endlessly, and if you keep on chasing it, your endurance and willpower will be exhausted.

It does a loop from top to bottom when you try to ambush it, and because it was easy to flee from battlefield through the myriad of waterways that act as ways to escape, it's difficult to corner this thing.

Really dirty tactics.

As it was hard to see and very quick, it was hard to capture.

Fortunately, it basically didn't attack me.

The moment I lose focus for a brief second and I lose sight of its appearance, and it uses that interval to keep on fleeing.

I was waiting on the opportune moment to approach it, but it didn't appear.

Did I need to proceed under certain conditions or something? Though I don't understand it, I was sure that I couldn't attack it.

In the end, by summoning a large amount of Gillman Lords through 【Intermediate Summoning: Fishman】, and used 【Human Bomb】 on them. On top, I used 【Parasite 】 in order to raise the temperature of their body liquids to use as fuel. And so, I used 【 Kamikaze】 tactics in this confined space.

In the end, through the damage of the explosions that happen one after another in short succession, I aimed to dull its movements in order to take careful aim with my red spear and kill it by skewering it.

Though I had the feeling that it went through the nucleus, it looked like I didn't break it and could eat it later.

The moment I knocked down Aquarium ・Ball Golem, the stairs temporarily appeared underneath the water dome. The stairs didn't have a shape or a silhouette a little while ago. As the stairs appeared in midair as well, it somehow was a strange spectacle.

While fatigue has piled up from the subjugation, the bottom floor is near.

I charge my fighting spirit for a minute, exit from the water dome and set foot into the 36th floor.

The 36th floor is a huge wetlands, with countless of waterfalls pouring down from the ceiling.

Day 207

The 36th floor resembled the floors between the 11th and the 15th. There were not a lot of dungeon monsters and I was easily able to collect the dungeon items on this floor.

The waterfall poured down incessantly from the ceiling into the basin below, though there was a spot where I could enjoy fishing safely.

Aside from of the “Steel Scaled Arowana” and the “Silver Scaled Pirarucu” that I caught in the previous lakes, there were also fish like “Seven-Colored Loach” and “Cherry Blossom Rainbow Trout”. It’s possible to obtain these delicious ingredients and bake them covered in salt.

Because there only a few people that come here, and the fish are not accustomed to be allured, they are quickly biting after I attached bait to my line and cast it.

They’re biting at every cast.

I only let the line set in for several seconds, before reeling it in and catching the fish. After pulling a few of them, the fish learned from it, and the amount of biting became worse up to a certain degree. I’ll settle for now as I was able to catch a dozen of them.

In addition to the basin of the waterfall, there were places where the spring water came up to your ankles and a dense vegetation grew. I was able to obtain vegetables such as “Famous Spring Eggplant”, “Golden Watermelon”, “Red Emperor Tomato” and “White King Cabbage”.

My personal favorite was above all the “Famous Spring Eggplant”.

Even though it’s so delicate that it can already get damaged by rubbing it lightly, its bright violet skin and plump appearance looked really delicious.

It really was delicious.

When I took a bite, a large amount of juice overflowed from of my mouth, and it had the sweetness of an apple or a strawberry, even though it was an eggplant. Because the aftertaste was a little sour, it was hard for me to stop eating. Even though there were several, I had to put them away before I ate them all up in no time.

They're raw now. If you'd cook them, they'll be even more delicious.

The recovery speed of my body's magic increased just from eating them. Seeing as my physical strength recovered somewhat as well, this is a convenient item. I gathered them for as long as I could.

It normally takes a suitable period before new ones grow, but this a dungeon.

I'll harvest them again when I return home.

I roughly explored the place and understood that instead of dungeon items, there's an abundance of ingredients here. Chests and metals seemed to be scarce.

Though delicious items are welcome, it's disappointing they only grew here.

Perhaps, if I didn't have any obligations, I would have likely stayed here for a while. It is a very comfortable floor.

A splendid air fills my lungs. You won't lose interest in the large number of first-rate ingredients and no matter how many of them you eat, you'll spontaneously come back. The temperature is being kept at a moderate, comfortable level. The overflowing clean water can be used in countless of ways. There's no boredom because there are a lot of noises coming from large dungeon monsters that you occasionally meet and try to kill each other. Ha, this is considerably good.

I guess it might not be bad to build a cottage near the safe fishing spot by adjusting the Skeleton Centipede in a few ways.

Well, I actually must go back because there are various things going on outside. This must be a dream.

Because of the characteristics of this floor, I advanced without any particular hardships and arrived at the depth of the 40th floor.

There's a huge waterfall in the center here, and a basin of a corresponding size spreads out. The temperature here is low because of the spray of the waterfall that is flying around along the way the wind blows.

The surroundings are encircled by a rocky mountainside, and the location is overgrown with plants. There are also marshes with high viscosity.

Because the ground is not as steady as it was before, you have to pay attention to your foothold in order to not lose your footing when push comes to shove.

On a battlefield that looked more or less the same as the one where I fought King Crab Crysora, something lay in wait. It's a four-legged beast with a strange appearance that reminds me of either a dog or of a wolf.

Its long, thick forelegs seem to have developed in a way to catch prey. Each paw had four sharp claws. Its thick, powerful hind legs were smaller than its forelegs, but exhibited an excellent sense of stability no matter what the state of the ground below is.

Eight pairs of short, thick, transparent blue feelers grew on its back and were wriggling back and forth. Water charged with electricity dripped from the tips of the feelers. *drip drip (sfx)*

Its tail was as thick as a tree and twice the length of a normal animal, with three claws on the tip that moved as skillfully as fingers. The sharp claws emit a light blue color, and it will likely use it to attack from a blind spot, using it as a fifth limb.

Its whole body is covered in silky, turquoise body hair that looked like it would feel good despite the fact that it can stiffen immediately like an armor of a countless number of blades upon impact. If you touch its body carelessly, that part of you will be cut and torn to pieces.

Serrated teeth grew in the front of the wolf's mouth and extended forward, like those of an insect. A long tongue flickered from the opening, with a blue liquid covering the tip and dripping down from it.

The head had three transparent blue eyes and was firmly protected by a white exoskeleton resembling a mask. A pair of twisted horns extended from its temporal regions.

And so the floor boss "Lethal Dead ・ Blood Eater ・ Pochi" raised a roar to indicate the start of the battle.

It was an overwhelming howl like the one from Minokichi-kun. As the shock rippled through the surroundings, it made my body shiver. *biribiri (sfx)*

Right before the roar stopped ringing, a countless number of bulges appeared around Lethal Dead ・ Blood Eater ・ Pochi. Things jumped out of them as they split up. I recognized a countless amount of dungeon monsters coming out of the underground.

Four-sided Rebelling Mantis Shrimps, Blue Mermen Knights, War Helmet Octopus and Riot Sharks. All were dungeon monsters that I encountered while coming here, and there appeared to be around fifty.

However, they were not in their normal state.

Some had broken arms, others had crushed heads with their eyeballs hanging out. Some had missing body parts, others had their entrails hanging out.

The one thing in common they had, was that each one of them was dead. Were they so damaged up to the point that there wasn't even a drop of blood left?

Apparently Lethal Dead ・ Blood Eater ・ Pochi drains the blood of the prey it kills until its appetite is satisfied.

When eating, it can also bite off an extremely low amount of meat, with the majority being left.

Though normally it would be left as is, Lethal Dead ・ Blood Eater ・ Pochi uses【Parasite】to grow a parasite inside the beasts' body. It has the trait to make the corpse into a hotbed.

The parasite will absorb nutrients from the host's body in order to grow up until into a specific stage. It will act as a vanguard for Lethal Dead ・ Blood Eater ・ Pochi, who needs a large amount of blood. It manages the dead body for the sake of hunting, becoming somewhat like a partner.

Normally, it's my duty to purify the undead from this dungeon but seeing as these corpses are manipulated by a parasite, they're technically not undead. It's like that.

You could say that the technique of manipulating a corpse looks similar to that of a certain Great Hero of the Devil Insect.

The vanguard searched for the new prey, me, and the battlefield was immediately filled with wild excitement.

【Floor boss [Lethal Dead ・ Blood Eater ・ Pochi] successfully eliminated.】

【Achiever Yatendouji is permitted to proceed to the next floor, floor boss [Lethal Dead ・ Blood Eater ・ Pochi] can hereafter be passed without battle】

【Achiever Yatendouji has been Awarded the 【Behemoth's Collection of Manipulated Corpses】】

【 Achiever Yatendouji has been Assigned the Rare Skill 【Master Manipulator – Water Intermediary】 as a bonus for a solo kill】

The bodies of the summoned dungeon monsters were used as sacrificial pawns, while Lethal Dead ・ Blood Eater ・ Pochi moved around silently and at high speed, using the gaps to attack with its sharp claws and the tentacles on its back

A swing of its sharp claws creates a violent wind. The electrified water that's gushing from the tentacles can melt any skin it touches and burns the body from the inside with an electric shock.

Because of 【Thunder Attack Nullification】 the damage probably wouldn't be of such an extent that you could call it high, but I don't think I would want to be covered in that strong acidic liquid even when using it.

Aside from its individual ability, he was pretty troublesome because he was accompanied by its subordinates. Other floor bosses up to now didn't have those. In the end, I succeeded in subduing it.

The price for killing a myriad of dungeon monsters was that my halberd became almost useless, but I guess that was unavoidable.

I threw it into my item box because it's still in a state where it could potentially be repaired. In its stead, I take out my 【Giant's Long-Lasting Carving Knife】.

Even though it's pretty much a kitchen knife, this magic item temporarily becomes something like a long sword for someone of my physique. While this kind of sword is hardly any better than other long swords, but it was better than nothing and above all there's the advantage that it'd be easy to make fresh sashimi.

I decided to stick with this for a while.

Nevertheless, while my abilities are now limited and I'm severely slowed, you might say that it was still up to a level that I'm able to manage somehow or another.

After collecting the treasure chest and the corpse, I pushed my feet forward to advance to the 41st floor.

On the 41st floor, there wasn't any land.

Day 208

From the 41st floor onwards, a world of transparent spring water spread out.

Simply put, all the floors are lakes.

Only huge sacred lotus leaves could be used as footing. There was nothing else that could serve as a foothold. If I didn't move, there was no flow of air either. Not even one ripple could be seen on the water's surface.

The stairs ended on the sacred lotus leaf that seemed to be the biggest one around. I'd say it was around fifty meter in diameter? It had a stability to the extent that it wouldn't sink even if there were dozens of people standing on it.

In front of the first sacred lotus leaf, a straight path was made by a series of leaves of different sizes, with diameters going from several meters up to several dozens of meters.

At a point where the sacred lotus leaves split into left and right, I examined the possibility of flying straight forward, but it wasn't an option. I understood that I couldn't fly here.

Because the forks gradually multiplied as I went forward, it became more complex.

Even if the pathways had no walls, they looked similar to corridors. In other words, it's a labyrinth made out of sacred lotus leaves.

Because there were hardly any obstructions, the view was favorable. I was able to predict a rough route because I could see the previous area. On top of the sacred lotus leaves, I could confirm the wonderful ornaments of treasure chests and strong dungeon monsters that are clearly waiting for perform an ambush.

Though it would be difficult to gather everything because of the complexity.

From afar, I was unable to thoroughly see the extensive complexity. There are a lot of things that looked reachable, but that I was unable to reach, which was very irritating. Though if given more time, I would have been able to get there one way or another but I gave up because I didn't feel like it.

The one thing above all that made this floor difficult is that if you temporarily fell off of the sacred lotus leaves, you would be instantly returned to the first sacred lotus leaf at the stairs.

Like the floor before where the ceiling and the floor looped, I was able to deduce that this floor returns you to the beginning the moment you fall into the water.

There were fish-type dungeon monsters here that will push you into the water without mercy. There were also sacred lotus leaves that sink temporarily once you stand in front of the treasure chest that were placed on top of them. I was sent back to the beginning several times.

To be honest, stress was piling up. Nevertheless, I advanced while continuing to be careful.

While collecting treasure chests and corpses of the strong dungeon monsters that I took on, I arrived at the deepest part of the 45th floor at night.

At the deepest part, there was a sacred lotus leaf as big as the one at the stairs in the beginning.

However, the road on the sacred lotus leaves didn't continue as before, and the way I came from temporarily disappeared. The sacred lotus leaves that were there a while ago, seemed to have sunk the moment I arrived.

Only a slight ripple showed any remaining trace of it, and even that was gradually disappearing.

The floor boss of the 45th floor that fights on the sacred lotus leaf, appeared at the same time the leaves sank. Two beautiful women were the only thing left standing on the very large surface of the lake.

The name of the floor boss was “Red Armed Geminyuvia”.

Blue, glittering long hair extended to their waist, reflecting the light. I stared at their blue eyes that drove their prey that sank in their blue eyes to insanity – I have to mention it didn’t happen to me this time. The cold, murderous intent of these smiling twins was hidden by their beautiful, doll-like faces.

They were wearing beautiful mercury evening dresses, decorated with an ornament that had a skull-like gem embedded in the seedbed of blooming water lilies. Red dress gloves covered everything until halfway up their upper arms. They wore scarfs so pale, they were almost transparent.

They were approximately 160 centimeters high, and had a very thin, delicate build in general. Nevertheless, because of their soft feminine curves and nonchalant behavior, they gave off a strong sex appeal. It looks like they had a natural 【Charm】 magic, like dryads.

Intending to look frail, they looked like they could be beaten by just looking at them.

Red Armed Geminyuvia is related to the Vivian race, a water fairy consisting of 2 persons.

The Vivian live near watering holes such as lakes and are, in essence, a gentle race. That being said, everything has its exceptions.

Red Armed Geminyuvia, being one of the exceptions, adored to torment others. They’re a dangerous monster that would kill any fool that was done in by their pretty face and 【Charm】.

Their red dress gloves seemed to be composed out of the blood of the creatures they killed. Looks like a deep-seated grudge dwelled in them. Anyone flirting with them gets

mesmerized and any liquid they touch gets boiled. Through their magic, any liquid could become as hot as 500 degrees Celsius.

So if you got bewildered by their beauty, there's the possibility that you'd get killed the moment you get touched, because even your blood will boil when touched.

By the way, if you decapitate one of the Red Armed Geminyuvia, while the other is still alive, she gets revived immediately. It's necessary to kill both at the same time in order to subdue them.

And, seeing as they're a water fairy, they can absorb magic if there's a large volume of water nearby, which apparently also restores some health.

Seeing as the surroundings of Red Armed Geminyuvia are a place filled with water, it became their weapon, making it their perfect hunting ground.

【Floor boss [Red Armed Geminyuvia] successfully eliminated.】

【Achiever Yatendouji is permitted to proceed to the next floor, floor boss [Red Armed Geminyuvia] can hereafter be passed without battle】

【Achiever Yatendouji has been Awarded the 【Red Armed Lady】】

【 Achiever Yatendouji has been Assigned the Rare Skill 【How Water Torrent】 as a bonus for a solo kill】

A tsunami of hot water approached the sacred lotus leaf from all sides.

The twins cooperated and manipulated the hot water, creating many dragon heads.

Several hundreds of them were floating midair, creating an artillery targeting the water dome.

The knitted sacred lotus leaf was burnt down after their relentless fury ended.

Because of the variety of attacks, it was hard to defend against the wide array of the water attacks.

I was very likely to receive splash damage if I avoided a direct attack, and there was no other way to deal with its attacks. Even if there would have been, it wouldn't have made any difference. Because of the high volume of water, defending against it would have gradually whittled me down.

One annoying thing about the twins is that they kept a constant distance from me. One took up position in front of me, another behind me. I had to fight while trying to kill these two at same time.

Red Armed Geminyuvia rotated intelligently, circling around the lake's surface while attacking me remotely. Honestly, I was fed up with it.

Eventually, I used one of the abilities of my Vermillion spear combined with my marksmanship. The extraordinary power of my fourth-grade Demise magic bombarded them and pierced both their hearts at the same time. And so, I subdued them.

I collected the treasure chest and the corpses, and descended the stairs that appeared at the center of the sacred lotus leaf.

The 46th floor introduced the final levels, and had characteristics of all the floors that I went through up until now. It is a fantastic space!

Day 209

The 46th floor and everything under it consisted of a waterfall that poured down from the ceiling. A countless amount of waterways stretched out in mid-air, while the ground below held a countless number of neighboring lakes and subterranean lakes.

The structure and its characteristics were somewhat similar to what I'd seen before.

There's the vertical loop trap that surrounds the countless number of waterways in mid-air. In the lakes, there's also the trap of the sacred lotus leaves that returns you to the beginning. The small rooms in the underground lakes also held sinking traps.

There are some places where you can collect items where your ankles are submerged like in the wetlands, there are rapids, and there's even a place where a rainbow is created by the spray of the waterfall that is pouring down.

However, there are also things that weren't there up until now.

In the center of the floor, whereas the waterfall only counted as one floor, it has now become a huge cascade that is several kilometers in height that pierces through every thick layer separating each of the floors between the 46th to the 50th.

The heart of the waterfall connects to the lowest part of the 50th floor. It would be one method of reaching the bottom floor immediately by leaping in and plunging down. Nevertheless, there's a high probability that one would die if one would jump.

The surroundings of the huge waterfall have been set up as an area where you cannot fly and where you have no choice but to fall. If you'd jump in the huge waterfall, you'd first of all be confronted by an enormous quantity of water and its corresponding water pressure. That alone might crush one's body.

And, even if you're fortunate enough to arrive at the lowest level, you'd have fallen down several kilometers from the sky.

When doing this, you'd surely feel an impact that's harder than being thrown into solid concrete. You wouldn't even be aware that you'd have died the moment you hit the water. And even if you didn't die, it would be more than likely that you'd end up with a considerable serious injury. On top, you might not even be able to surface by the constant volume of water that falls on top of you.

Only a fool would challenge the dungeon boss in this situation. Because of these reasons, I basically decided not to be lazy and travel down the stairs in a normal fashion.

While I advanced normally, as I expected of the final levels, I came across a rampant amount of dungeon monsters that frequently appeared on the previous levels. The area here is so wide, it cannot be compared to anything I've seen before.

On top, there were:

- "[Warpidron] children, who are inferior to the [Warpidron] floor boss
- "War Skull Lizards"
- "Crysora Crab Lords"
- "Vortex Turtles"
- "Lord Gillman Riders"
- "Charybdis'"
- "Ball Golems"
- "Blood Eaters"
- "Geminyuvia"

If you classify floor bosses as underbosses, these give of the feel of being powerful enemies like mini-bosses.

A mini-boss is not a floor boss, but it is still an existence with a considerably delicious taste if you defeat it.

Because I also earned the extravagant treasure chests they are guarding when I defeated them, I found it more useful to eat the corpses.

The treasure chests often held 【Ancient】-class magic items and even when I got unlucky, they still held a lot of magic metal ingots and a large amount of gold coins.

After killing the mini-bosses that caught my attention, I went ahead and advanced. In the middle of the 48th floor, I spotted a party of 8 people fighting. They were still considerably far away. Their party was composed of a vanguard consisting out of 3 people, a middle guard out of 2 people and their rear guard of 3 people.

The last party I saw nearly died trying to capture the 15th floor.

I'm guessing their leader is the 【Swordsman】 whose body is wrapped in crimson armor. He probably is either a 【Hero】 or a 【Great Hero】.

His presence closely resembled the Avenger and the Hero of Darkness, and by that I mean that he looks more delicious to me than a floor boss.

I observed the state of the fight because I was interested. The roaring downpour of the waterfall evaporated for several seconds because of the high temperature created by a blaze of hell fire that covered the leader as well as the large sword he carried. He vaguely resembled Minokichi-kun. There's no doubt that he received a divine blessing of a 【God 】 from the Fire lineage.

Though I don't understand it in detail, but it I wonder if it's close to the 【God of Fire Arts 】 or the 【God of Flash Fires 】.

For sure he's a considerably strong 【Hero】, possibly even a 【Great Hero】.

For him to dive into an 【Age of the Gods dungeon】, while having a poor compatibility with his blessing… I'm pretty sure he's aiming to shut down his weak points.

He's likely challenging this dungeon because you receive a rare ability related to water if you subdue a floor boss here under specific conditions.

If an enemy aims for your weak point by using an attack of the water/ice system, it's possible that it doesn't exhibit its original attacking power if you've already acquired the skill.

Even if you didn't obtain the rare ability, you can still learn how to fight an enemy that you're not compatible with, which is almost like raising a level. Though there's still the apparent disadvantage, there's still a big merit to it.

Having said that, it's not something that can be easily done. To capture a dungeon that is overflowing with strong monsters that focus on attacking my natural weak point, is something quite difficult.

There are quite big obstacles to overcome, such as the floor bosses. In order to overcome them, a corresponding amount of ability is needed.

The ones that only depend on unskilled usage of their abilities, would end up being killed without mercy.

Even when speaking in terms of a 【Hero】 or a 【Great Hero】, when their time has come, they'll still die in the end.

Putting aside this explanation…

Considering the potential of a party that is on the brink of diving the deepest part of a 【Demigod class】 dungeon, is indeed really appetizing.

All party members present seem competent and their weapons are solid. Making them subordinates through 【Enslave】 might also be good.

Can I attack them? I would certainly attack them if we were outside of the dungeon.

However, because we're in a dungeon at the moment, I decided not to do it.

I'm close to reaching the dungeon boss, and I shouldn't get worn out for no reason.

My goal is to capture this dungeon. And I should give priority to that above all else.

On top, I want to start doing business in the labyrinth city. I exhibit some self-control for the group members that are looking forward to my hasty return.

Him and his party members, for sure I want to meet them in a different location in a more hostile environment.

By the way, it looks like the ones over there noticed me over here as well. And seeing as I look like a monster, with him motionlessly gazing at me, it must look like a scene where heaven and earth are upside down.

Though when I didn't notice any further reaction anymore, I advance in a direct path towards the stairs that descend to the next floor which results in me continuously fighting with the mini-bosses. I use my 【Giant's Long-Lasting Carving Knife】 to dismantle the bodies of the nine mini-bosses while they were still alive.

Even when I arrive at the stairs, I still felt their eyes behind me staring at me. I ignored it and pressed onward.

Around the time where it would normally start to get dark outside, I arrive at the bottom of the floor, at the stairs that lead underground to the 50th floor.

Because I allowed myself a slightly longer break, I didn't have any problem with my stamina or magic.

I restricted my abilities in order to look and see how far I could go in this state, and set off for the bottom floor of 【Aquarium · Forlia】 where the dungeon boss lied in wait.

The battlefield where I'll fight the dungeon boss was an enormous basin of a waterfall. This enormous basin was right under the huge waterfall that poured down from the 46th floor to the 50th floor. The 50th floor became exactly like the name 【Waterfall Basin of Spring Water - Aquarium Forlia】.

When I jumped down from the stairs that are suspended in mid-air, I ended up underwater and my body got pulled down immediately.

Spring water filled the entire floor and trashed around violently because of the huge waterfall.

In general, it's different from the large vortex at the Grief Charybdis, because that one was whirling in a constant direction. Top to bottom, left to right… Every sense of direction disappeared the moment I entered the water here.

The air got forcefully squeezed out of my lungs by the furious rotations. And when the oxygen is gone, the mouth will open reflexively. And so, a large amount of spring water flowed into my mouth. My esophagus expanded, while my windpipe closed off and my stomach got filled up.

If I didn't have 【Anaerobic】, I would have suffocated at this stage. Is my consciousness becoming hazy as well?

This place… I honestly wanted to avoid fighting here, if possible.

Oh dear, such wishful thinking never comes true.

In the center, in the deepest, most tempestuous part of this waterfall's basin, it appeared.

Day 210

The battle with the dungeon boss has been going on unbroken since yesterday.

After a day of fighting in a location where the likelihood of drowning was very high due to the swift currents in the basin of the huge waterfall, it was settled.

Even though I honestly didn't think I'd be able to graze it while my abilities were restricted, I was able to finish it off.

I beat it in the following manner:

The name of the dungeon boss of 【Aquarium ・ Forlia】 was "Shark Head ・Bolt Wyrm".

It was a kind of lesser dragon. A big shot with a snake-like body of 50 meters in length and 5 meters in diameter.

When it attains a size like this, it normally becomes a 【Wisdom Dragon 】. But it's classified as a lesser dragon because its intellect is still low and it basically acts instinctively.

Its head closely resembles that of a shark. Its whole body is protected by a rough skin covered in dragon scales and dragon shells. A countless amount of dorsal fins made out of thunder gems are on its back. Sharp pectoral fins made out of thunder gems spread out on its side like wings.

While its whole body always emits a blue light, it changes from blue to yellow when it attacks. Red aposematic lines makes this easy to understand.

A basic method of attack is a large torrent created by the fins made out of thunder gems. It basically becomes a sort of a sound attack that moves faster than on land and tears up one's body. It uses its fins for a slash attack that can even slice and cleave apart the torrents

momentarily. After one would take a great deal of effort to weather through this, it would charge at high speed with its big frame. By manipulating the water currents, it can raise itself to ultra-high swimming speeds. It demonstrated a strength that was appropriate for a dungeon boss.

The best part was the fact that it could swim freely in these rapids. It wore a dignity fit for the master of the basin of the huge waterfall.

Even though it was a lesser dragon, its existence rivaled that of a dragon nonetheless. The creature's status slightly exceed that of a Lord.

Though, right now, its head was sliced clean off. I rolled over its long body and sliced it in several pieces. Even though I cut off its head, it still lived for quite a while. In the end, it finally seemed to have died.

My limbs were blown off several times, half my body was shaved off and I was comparatively in a serious half-dying state. But I survived.

Even though I had restricted myself, this is what happened in a 【Demigod rank】 dungeon. What would happen in a 【God rank】 one?

I can't even imagine a 【Great God rank】.

How long will I have to wait for those delicious dishes?

I unconsciously started drooling. *slurp slurp (sfx)* I shouldn't do that.

While I'm thinking about all of that –

【Floor boss [Shark Head ・ Bolt Wyrm] successfully eliminated.】

【"Lost God Psalms" Condition to Clear 【Aquarium ・ Forlia】 Achieved: 【Solo Kill】 【Fall of the Lesser Dragon】【Drowning Capture】】

【 Achiever Yatendouji has been Assigned the Rare Skill 【Ruler of Aquarium】 as a bonus for a solo kill】

【Achiever Yatendouji has been Awarded the 【Lesser Dragon Shark's Placoid Lightning Scales】 as a first time subjugation bonus 】

【As a privilege to the one who captures the dungeon, the restriction on the use of the Warp Gate has been lifted. 】

【Please note that only those who captured the dungeon can use the Warp Gate. 】

【For Those Who Have Awakened the Psalms／The Key Figures of God's Lost Psalms, a portion of the 【Demigod of Spring Water】's divine power will be granted】

【As the collector is an important figure of a Great God, the quality of the Divine Power collected is inferior】

【The portion of the Divine Power rejected by this rule will be turned into an object】

【Yatendouji has obtained 【Spring Water Deity's Treasured Stone Rings – Ankletorium 】 !!】

-- That's the announcement that resounds in my head.

A treasure chest appears in front of me, containing a bracelet made out of 5 rings tied together with a golden chain.

First of all I collected the corpse and the treasure chest and put them in my item box. After that, I try to read the information on the gem with 【Magic Item Appraisal】. When I touched it, I could feel a powerful surge of extraordinary magic.

Name: 【Spring Water Deity's Treasured Stone Rings – Ankletorium】

Category: 【■■/ Ornament】

Rank: 【■■■■】 Rank

Abilities: 【Ankletorium】【Five Divine Water Treasure】

【Spring Water Fountain】【Increased Abilities】

【Divine Damnation】【Divine Power Conversion】

【Subordinate Promotion】【Form Alteration】

【Unholy Penetration】【Life Force of the Five Spirits】

Description: Yatendouji cleared 【Aquarium ・ Forlia】 in the Lost God Psalms. The ■■■■-grade ornament was obtained because of the rejected Divine power.

The design of the bracelet was 5 rings tied together with a golden chain. Each ring on the bracelet is decorated with an ornament resembling a blue jewel.

Only Yatendouji and those he has given permission to touch this ornament are able to do so. Any person who touches it without permission will have an unimaginable disaster befall them.

There are some rare exceptions, but since it is ■■, destruction is fundamentally impossible.

Do you wish to view additional information?

<YES> <NO>

This is great.

It has more released abilities than Hisperiol.

Does this stack with the bracelet of black silver that I already had equipped on my right arm -- 【Fury of the Haughty King – Beowulf】? If that's possible, my equipment will become even more excellent.

I thought about trying to bite it, just in case.

It's hard. I don't seem to be able to eat it though. When will I be able to eat a magic item like this? I feel dissatisfied and uneasy for a moment, but I decided to return as I was tired.

It's honestly surprising that a transfer system like the warp gate exists in this world. At any rate, it's here in this 【Age of the Gods dungeon】.

I guess it wouldn't be a miracle if something like this transfer system existed somewhere else as well, and it's most welcome if you think about the fact that collecting items could be made easier by this.

Hrm, it took me longer than I thought to successfully capture this 【Age of the Gods dungeon】. After a long time, I'm finally outside again.

Feeling the sun again after such a long time, it felt more radiant than I remembered.

Day 211

Arriving here from the capital itself, I decided to stay overnight in the Labyrinth City Aquarium.

I came out of the dungeon later than planned, because I wanted to taste the food I'd stored and decided to cook them in the Labyrinth City.

The hotel I stayed at was called [Banjo But] and cost a huge amount for a simple room, but in exchange it was one of the best hotels in Aquarium.

Inside the room there was an incredibly soft and comfortable bed made of materials acquired in the Labyrinth, a refrigerator stocked with different drinks and juices as well as lighting equipment, expertly crafted jewels and an extravagant painting hung on the wall depicting a beautiful woman standing in the middle of a lake. The room was decorated with rare flowers, and from the window a beautiful view of the city at night could be seen.

Even though the price is absurdly high, the hotel is not only popular with the nobles visiting the city, but also among adventurers who wish to delve into the deepest reaches of the dungeon.

The hotel also includes room-service.

The "Banjo But" also served as a restaurant by allowing you to order dinner in the room.

The delicious food here was the subject of their pride, so I was expecting a lot from them.

But I ended up deciding not to stay in the [Banjo But] and instead decided to venture out into the bustling city at night to the most famous Aquarium upscale restaurant [Pannakotten].

It is located on one of the floors of a huge building made of [Seven-Color Changing Stone] produced in the dungeon. Raw, this stone is soft like jelly, but when heat is applied for a certain period of time, it hardens and acquires an iridescent color. Inside the building, everything was decorated with magical items, creating an elegant atmosphere.

To visit this place, one needs the appropriate clothing, which I happened to have in my storage box because it was a gift from the Tomboy Princess.

The suit possessed extraordinary strength, but also had an excellent elasticity. The material was made from yarn called [Demonic Soul Thread] which came from a [Great Demonic Moth], which is the required minimum material for the manufacture of a [Demonic Soul Suit].

This suit was incredibly convenient. It also wasn't unnecessarily ornamented, which I liked.

Because of the fine workmanship and expensive materials, the cost of the suit is quite steep. Its value was equal to that of a house in the Royal Capital.

When they did not ask for payment for the liquor, I was a little surprised, but apparently this was another function of my suit, I think that was very helpful.

Anyways, lets leave the conversation about clothes for another time.

Food prepared from high-quality dungeon products by a renowned, higher level chef with the job [Master Chef of Labyrinth Cooking] Ririmura Enberun, as well as his personally selected kitchen staff, tasted absolutely delicious.

The menu looked perfect. Because of that, I could no longer restrain myself. Not really looking at the price, the result of my order was a table for 6 people covered with a variety of food. At this time, all the food, occupying a table for 6 was eaten by me alone.

All the ingredients used were just super, and prepared by the best chefs. Could every dish cooked by them be considered a work of art?

I inspected the brightly decorated dishes in anticipation and at the same time placing hope. In fact, from the first bite, I realized that it was even more delicious than I expected.

Once tried, I could not stop until everything is gone, my stomach is stuffed to satisfaction.

Bringing out the positive features of each ingredient to their maximum, using the techniques which have been mastered, was frankly just extraordinary.

Ririmura cooked it all; I can't decide whether it's better than the food made by the cooks who work as exclusive royal family chefs serving the Tomboy Princess and the First Queen?

Of course they are using completely different ingredients, to compare their work may not be correct, but without a doubt, even when compared with tastes from all over the world, the food here is a creation of the highest class.

After eating all the food, I reflexively called Ririmuru.

In fact, I was not worried about whether I'd get to see him or not, but he himself probably was interested to look at the man who ordered the abnormal amount of food because it was not long before he appeared.

Ririmuru, seemingly looked like a strict middle-aged man.

He had gray, brown hair, slightly shiny green eyes, a thin but at the same time very trained body, and clean simple white cooking clothes. But they gave the impression of clothing which had been loved and worn for a long time.

After seeing him, out of habit, I honestly told him my impression of his cooking with a satiated smile and nod.

It was sort of an exchange of courtesies between people confident in their own work.

I liked the food so much that the next time I'm here with Kanami and Minokichi, I plan on bringing them both here with me.

Next time I'll bring new ingredients, slain monsters and level bosses here for him to cook for me. Next time we will eat the obtained products together.

So I returned to the [Banjo But], enjoyed a pleasant dream, and today I enjoyed the breakfast, which I ordered yesterday evening.

Compared with a meal in the [Pannakotten], I felt a strange dissatisfaction while eating, but the food in the [Banjo But] was delicious, so there was no discontent.

It's unnecessary to buy souvenirs for my comrades because I found so much great stuff in the dungeon. Either way, I want to quickly return after I've made sure they've finished all their errands.

During the conquest of the dungeon, I spoke through my clones, but this is the first time they acted on their own for such a long period of time.

Because I had concerns about this. I raised the speed of flight, my pleasant flight across the sky very quickly ended, and I soon returned without any incidents.

In the main road of the Royal Capital, I immediately went to the house where I was expecting a passionate embrace from Kanami.

The hands embracing my body were so small. But from them came an enormous power which was crushing my bones, which was ready to break.

Anyone in my place would have become a bloody mess, the strength in her arms was strong. The strength needed to drink blood [Vampire Noble (subspecies)], it is not normal.

But these hugs were almost no problem, my body became much stronger, leaving a feeling of possessing unusual vigor.

Now I, who challenged the [Age of the Gods] dungeon, significantly raised my level.

[Age of the Gods] dungeon monsters, even the weakest ones, give a bunch of experience. Experience from the dungeon bosses in general is enormous.

Next promotion in rank, perhaps enough for me 1 or 2 times to get into [Age of the Gods] dungeon [Demigod] rank. In [God] rank dungeons will be even faster.

Eh raising rank ...

Although I am quite happy to be an [Apostle Lord]. However, thinking about what will happen next, I was plagued by various doubts.

To begin with, I'd like to fight with the owners of the strong body and great power, the [Wise Serpent / Dragon].

[Variety Winged Drake] because they are so tasty, and the materials from it are of a quality sufficient to produce magical items.

So I try to make an effort in order to enjoy them.

In addition, as my goal remains [Heroes] and [Great Heroes], as well as similar strong creatures like the [Demon King], [Emperor Demons], [the King of Beasts], [Emperor Animals] and other characters of [Stories], meeting with which is very likely.

With the [Heroes] and [Great Heroes] I have fought, as well as, albeit restrained, with [Shark-head Thunder Wyrm] too. But for those whom I have not seen, I can not say anything.

It was possible that in the future, the strength of an [Apostle Lord] will simply not be enough.

Not to mention raising my rank and ability is becoming more difficult to achieve.

Though it might not be good to not rank up now because my power is sufficient at present. But there are so many possibilites for even greater power at higher ranks. Hmmmm, this is going to be a tricky decision.

But oh well, when the time comes, I'll think about it then.

So I finished the talk of the idea.

Day 212

Since yesterday, Kanami-chan didn't leave my side, aside from the time I went to the restroom.

With her arms around my neck, she clung to my back. I don't want to say that it currently looks like a child clinging to an adult, but it's hard to describe our current appearance in another way.

Well, I can't say anything about this scenario, I can't do anything but smile with satisfaction. "Is it ok like this?" I think to myself.

I guess so, as I'm not particularly tired and I do not dislike being embraced.

Seeing Kanami-chan like this, and with Argento and Auro on both my arms, I didn't have any problems with it.

I gave up because it was some form of physical contact.

And because I'm a father as well, I can be serious in some cases. Because I normally don't have a lot of time, I really do not have any reason to complain.

Aside from that, I decided to open the collected treasure chests today.

Even though I could have done it yesterday as well, I wanted to see how much the remodeling of the store had advanced yesterday. I also wanted to see how much the training of the leader of ≪ Solitude ≫ had progressed. I also wanted to check how much Redhead and Boy Knight had grown. On top, there were a lot of other miscellaneous duties, like arranging the pricing of the items on display in the store. Because of all that, I postponed it until today.

By the way, the one thing that was most troublesome to do yesterday, was the pricing.

The items that I got from the 【Age of the Gods dungeon】, were similar to 【Artefacts】 exactly because they came from an 【Age of the Gods dungeon】. In other words, they were superior articles to items that showed similar effects.

Even if you take just one recovery potion for instance, its effect was several percentages higher than something with the same quantity and same size.

So among customers there are a lot of people that want and need recovery potions, such as soldiers and adventures.

However, when it comes to 【Divine's Lost Legacy】, because of their heightened effect, they're used the moment they're found by the person conquering the dungeon in most of the cases. Therefore, there's a considerably low quantity that is up for sale.

Even if you put something on the market from an 【Age of the Gods dungeon】 because the demand is high, they're often bought by other adventurers.

For that reason, the amount that's being exported is very limited, considering the expenses can increase in various ways, by things such as tariffs and transportation fees. Even if, in the best circumstances, if I'd part way with a large amount of 【Divine's Lost Legacy】 that I got from the 【Age of the Gods dungeon】, people would need to come from the Labyrinth cities, or would need to send a subordinate to come and collect the goods. It'll be even harder if they do not possess the suitable financial assets.

These goods might not be sold straight away, even if they're highly desirable.

Regardless, if I consider the death toll of the enemies I crossed in the pathways and corridors as I advanced, I was able to collect a countless amount of treasure chests, and take their contents back home with me.

Looks like 【Luck】 and 【Golden Rule】 did their job, because the drop rate was high and there were a lot of items inside the treasure chests. It included items such as low-grade recovery potions, which I could still sell separately for a high price.

Even though the cost of acquiring them for myself was almost zero and I pretty much got them for free, the Famous Spring Eggplant is a high-value ingredient. One piece of ingredient is worth several silver coins. It's also common for magic items such as armor to reach up to value of a golden plate.

In other words, if I can sell them, I can make an easy profit. Even if I lower my prices and sell it, I'd still get a considerable profit.

However, that's what makes pricing difficult.

It'll still be difficult to collect the same amount on a regular basis in the future. Additionally, if I get carried away and rake in too much profit, more than necessary, I'll be resented by other merchants, which is troublesome.

If that resentment accumulates too much, it'll come back to bite me in the ass. Even if I could read their minds and conspire against from behind the scenes with my clones, it would still be a bit irritating.

Because I don't want to do a futile job, I better take as much time as I can.

And because Blacksmith-san wasn't sure on it, I contacted an experienced vice-manager.

The new vice-manager was the vice-manager of a corporate branch of the Farumeru company in the Fortress City ≪ Trient ≫ that we came across when we first came out of the Great Forest. His love of gambling robbed him of quite a few important items as well as all of his cash. This fat, bald, middle-aged man was excellent, despite his gambling problems that were giving him some worries.

Due to the cooperation of the vice-manager, we were able to save a lot of time. After that, we had some discussion on his remuneration.

After all, what you need is an able friend, with a big network. Though might they all possibly be connected through money?

Anyhow, should I personally scout the vice-manager for the future? There is his unpleasant gambling habit, but I am secretly thinking of taking advantage of that.

I pull myself together and start opening the treasure chests.

I collected a treasure chest after each boss fight, making a grand total of 10 chests. They are, as listed below:

- The chest from floor boss “Warpidron” 【Great Whale’s Storm Horn】
- The chest from floor boss “Skull Lizard ・ War Salamander” 【Lizard’s Corpse Sticky Liquid】
- The chest from floor boss “King Crab ・ Crysora” 【Crystal Crab’s Bubble Poetry】
- The chest from floor boss “Shell Turtle ・ Vortex” 【Shell of the Vortex Mary River Turtle】
- The chest from floor boss “Dominaria ・ Gillman Lord Rider” 【Ancient Flower Petals of the Silvery Blue Fish】
- The chest from floor boss “Grief Charybdis” 【Maiden of Grief】
- The chest from floor boss “Aquarium ・ Ball Golem” 【Pursuer of the Fleeing Ball】

- The chest from floor boss “Lethal Dead ・ Blood Eater ・ Pochi” 【Behemoth’s Collection of Manipulated Corpses】

- The chest from floor boss “Red Armed Geminyuvia” 【Red Armed Lady】

- The chest from dungeon boss “Shark Head ・Bolt Wyrm” 【Lesser Dragon Shark’s Placoid Lightning Scales 】

Each casket had particular decorations that were representative for the bosses that awarded them. Each one is something that can be considered a work of art. They’re all a sort of magic item that holds a storage ability.

Seeing as I obtained a large amount of money and potions from the chests I collected before, I wonder what it’ll be this time.

I thought it might be fun to suddenly open them all at once, making all the treasure spill out before me, but I was wrong.

There really was no reason to think like that.

And so I began to open the first five chests, going from 【Great Whale’s Storm Horn】 up until 【Ancient Flower Petals of the Silvery Blue Fish】, because I felt it would be a waste to open them all at once.

I decided to leave the rest for tomorrow, and enjoy myself with what turns up today.

[Aporou obtained “[Weapon ・ Staff] Gold Tin Horn Stinger ・Lightning Whale”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Weapon ・ Sword] Water Shell Scaled Sword ・Water Scale”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Weapon ・ Hammer] Crushing Quake Hammer ・Crab Pincer”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Weapon ・ Spear] Cursed Four-pronged Water Spear ・Fish Fin”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Armor ・ Shield] Lightning Horn Whale’s Meat Shield”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Armor ・ Shield] Water Thorn Shell Barrier”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Armor ・ Armor] Extremely Dense Water ・Vortex Turtle”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Armor ・ Back] Blue Mantle of Many Arm Bones”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Armor ・ Greaves] Crystal Grieves of the Conquered Crystal”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Armor ・ Boots] Crystal Sabatons”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Armor ・ Head] Horned Crystal Helm”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Armor ・ Gauntlets] Fin Bladed Blue Water Gauntlets”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Medicine] Small Bottle of Young War Salamander’s Sticky Nucleus x 4”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Medicine] Powered Water of Barrier Defense x 5”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Material] Huge Bottle of High-Grade Whale Oil x 3”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Material] Vortex Turtle’s Cure Disease Jelly x 10”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Material] Magic Armored Medium Ship Manufacturing Kit x 5”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Material] Blue Plant Metal Ingot x 10”!!]

[Aporou obtained “[Book] Magic Book containing the written principles of Water”!!]

Those are the 19 items that were included. Each box had three to five different kind of items.

To be honest, I expected there to be more because these came from the lowest rank of the 3 of an 【Age of the Gods dungeon】, a 【Demigod Rank】. There were the items that I obtained for defeating the floor bosses and dungeon boss for the first time though.

“I have no base for comparison though, as I haven’t done this kind of dungeon anywhere else yet. But I hope there’ll be a little more?” is what I’m thinking.

But, seeing as the clearing conditions were hard, the obtained items were all useful.

【Gold Tin Horn Stinger ・Lightning Whale】 was khakkhara that had six rings in its circular head. It had the shape of a golden horn attached on top. When shaken, it creates the sound of a thunderstorm.

【Water Shell Scaled Sword ・Water Scale】 was a magic item that apparently closely resembled the organic sword of the Skull Lizard ・ War Salamander. It was made out of materials like scales, and it was so sharp that it could cut rock if handled properly.

【Crushing Quake Hammer ・Crab Pincer】 was a hammer that looks like a huge crab’s pincer and that was composed out of rainbow-colored crystals that could vibrate at high speed. It was able to crush rock merely by touching it. Because it was like a pincer, if you pulled a trigger that was close to your hand, it had a trick where its jaws started moving.

【Cursed Four-pronged Water Spear ・Fish Fin】 resembled the spear Dominaria ・ Gillman Lord Rider was wielding, and had four abilities. It had a length and sharpness that was just right, and it felt familiar in my hands.

In addition, there was the 【Lightning Horn Whale's Meat Shield】, a bulky lump of meat shield that was halfheartedly hardened. The 【Blue Mantle of Many Arm Bones】 that had an outbreak of a countless amount of arm bones on the inside. 【Water Thorn Shell Barrier】 was a tower shield grown out of a huge shell that held a thorn which gushes out an infinite amount of high-pressured water. 【Extremely Dense Water ・Vortex Turtle】 was an armor that would cover your hold body like an exoskeleton armor. It was designed as a smooth blob that had many uses. Most of them were magic items of 【Ancient】 rank.

【Huge Bottle of High-Grade Whale Oil】 and 【Blue Plant Metal Ingot】 could be used in a lot of different ways. And because it was an item that one would be rarely be able to buy, I planned to divide them amongst the various groups later.

For the time being, I decided to use 【Cursed Four-pronged Water Spear ・Fish Fin】 as a substitute for my halberd, until the former was repaired. I decided that the rest should be given to the Parabellum members that had earned it.

My war assets will definitely be increased with this.

After I finished my inspection, I decided to gift the 【Magic Book containing the written principles of Water】 to Supesei, who had expressed a desire in it. The 【Blue Plant Metal Ingot】, I entrusted to Blacksmith-san. I put the 【Magic Armored Medium Ship Manufacturing Kit】 in my item box for the time being. I wanted to use the 【Small Bottle of Young War Salamander's Sticky Nucleus】 to see what would happen.

Oniguma "Kumajirou" and Orthrus "Kurosaburou" will be my test subjects.

I could have prepared some disposable Black Undead Knights, but because there was a limited amount of small bottles, it would be a waste to let them consume it. I judged that as long as I read the information, there won't be any harm to the test subjects. And so I hesitantly chose my two pets under these circumstances.

The usage of the small bottles is easy. I applied the gooey contents, the sticky nucleus', to each of their chests. After that I poured spring water on it that I had prepared in a large bottle beforehand.

Then, the nucleus mysteriously absorbed the large amount of spring water, and immediately transformed into a viscous liquid. Now those two are wearing a slime armor just like Skull Lizard · War Salamander did.

Apparently, the sticky nucleus was permeated by this slime and became larger and crystallized. In addition, the form that appeared was now embedded in both chests.

The vicious liquid normally wraps around to silver nucleus to protect it, but when in combat, it covers the entire body.

Their attack power increased as well because of the tentacles. And the slime armor is a superior ability to provide simple defense. It looks like these two, that were already strong, will have their combat effectiveness improved by this.

What are they now able to do and what not? Either way, I gave them each a Warpidron leg as compensation for going to through the experiment.

They ate it with great relish.

When I stroked their heads, they gave off a different feeling from what they used to before. Looks like the gloss of their hair also improved. Did the effect even take to such an extent?

Seeing as this is a safe way to quickly obtain strength, I held on to the remaining two.

Though it'll take a while to get new ones, I wonder who I'll use them on.

Even though I was a little bit worried, I already decided on who to use one of the bottles.

Day 213

I opened the remaining treasure chests today.

I will leave out the detailed explanation this time because it's irksome. In total, I received 31 items from the remaining five treasure chests going from 【Maiden of Grief】 to 【Lesser Dragon Shark's Placoid Lightning Scales】.

Though the items had different classifications, each treasure chest had at least one item such as 【Gold Tin Horn Stinger ・Lightning Whale】 and 【Water Shell Scaled Sword ・Water Scale】. They are symbolic magic items made in relation to each floor boss.

Each of the previous five items were strong and were a great hidden gem with their nasty abilities.

From the 【Lesser Dragon Shark's Placoid Lightning Scales】I obtained a 【Legendary】 rank magic item which I was very pleased with, named 【Lesser Lightning Dragon's Call ・Shark Rope】.

【Lesser Lightning Dragon's Call ・ Shark Rope】was braided in three different colors: black, blue and yellow. Because of its elasticity, it could be worn as an everyday belt. In case of an emergency, it's very practical because it can become a lightning whip.

However, its real value is that, in return for a huge amount of magic power, you can summon the Shark Head ・Bolt Wyrm – not with the dungeon specifications, but potentially strengthened by inheriting a part of the special characteristics or abilities of the user.

Though unfortunately the Shark Head ・Bolt Wyrm isn't able to display its real abilities on land. However, it'll greatly flourish in a sea battle. There's a chance to use it if you want to rage as much as you can.

And while I obtained a Magic Armored Medium Ship Manufacturing Kit yesterday, now might be an unnecessary time to use it.

What I understood from the conquering the dungeon, is that the contents of the treasure chests on the deeper levels are of better quality. It looks like the number of items gradually increased as well.

In a way, the improvement of quality is natural.

Because the deeper you go, the more difficult it will be. There should be a difference in rewards.

And the increase in quantity fits in as well.

In this particular case, the chests from the 5th and 10th floor held 3 different items, the ones from the 15th and 20th held 4, 25th and 30th held 5, 35th and 40th held 6 and the 45th and 50th floor held 7. In total, I obtained 50 different items from the 10 treasure chests.

While I thought in the beginning that there might be only a few items, now that I went through the dungeon up until the end and finished it for the first time, I obtained several magic items of good quality. If that's the case, I will need to change the way I think about it.

Rather, I would think such things might even be convenient, as long as I have the power to conquer the dungeon!

While I cannot say that this will probably be the same for other 【Age of the Gods dungeons 】because there's a possibility they have a different mechanism, I still guess that the chances are high it's similar.

To make more profit, and to confirm my assumptions, should I go further with my conquering? And so, I start planning which dungeon to conquer next.

The training in the morning was finished around the same usual time, and after that I returned to our base in the Great Forest with Kanami-chan.

During this visit, I'd like the damage to my halberd to be repaired, but the main reason I came is to give the magic ores and plants I gathered in the dungeon to the group that stayed behind.

The results of the alloy will come out slowly, so I'll expect the halberd to be further reinforced by Blacksmith-san. I am convinced it will surely it will beat my expectations.

Blacksmith-san is being trained by a dwarven blacksmith, who excels in smithing by nature. Working alongside dwarfs and Alchemist-san, her technique will be nurtured. But her smithing knowledge will be even deepened by being taught by a member that became a Smith Half-Lord. Recently, her level and abilities rose abnormally.

The main reason that will make her able to deal daily with high-level raw ingredients such as spirit stones, might be because she's boosted by a powerful correction caused by 【Demon's Mistress】.

Blacksmith-san mentioned the interesting characteristics that the various magic metals had. It made me very anxious to see what she'd do with the halberd.

Though it's not likely that it'll reach 【Ancient】 rank, but there's the possibility that the halberd will be strengthened enough to reach 【Unique】 rank.

Additionally, the spear I obtained this time – 【Cursed Four-pronged Water Spear ・Fish Fin】 will be handled at the same time, so that my battle-style can evolve from now on.

Because there'll be many more situations where I'll have to battle one-to-many after this, a style with two spears might be good.

By the way, I didn't mention that Redhead got the same 【Demon's Mistress】 title, which is similar to what Alchemist-san and the sisters have. It boosts a lot of their skills and abilities.

The medicine Alchemist-san currently makes is so high-quality, that it cannot be compared to what she made before.

By using the various materials from the Great Forest, the recovery potions had a healing power that was higher than the average value of those that were being sold. At lot of her poisons cannot be easily cured without a specific antidote and there are some that deteriorate someone's power as well.

If I sell them in the shop at the royal capital, they might be popular and give me more regular customers.

By the way, recently, she sometimes devotes her so much to her studies that it becomes somewhat of a frenzy, though I find her kind of cute in such a way.

The dishes the sisters cook also improved in quality. The treatment of the subordinates became very good.

In other words, for those who did not have command and followed orders, the taste changed considerably. I wonder if I'm getting the same changes that the subordinates got to their dishes.

If they increases their current abilities like that, they may one day rise to up to be as good as Ririmur.

Even though it's sort of a wish, it has started to become a little bit the expectation.

Fresh farm produce is being grown in the ≪Farmlands≫, which are being tended to by Dorian-san. On top, her massage skills have improved remarkably.

The vegetables raised by Dorian-san are being sold in the shop in the royal capital and are very popular, while the visitors to ≪Parabellum Springs≫ have become addicted to her massages.

If they don't receive her massage at fixed intervals, their limbs start trembling, they start having small hallucinations and their willpower declines. It acts like a dangerous drug, with the ones addicted showing withdrawal symptoms.

Seeing as I'm a friend of Father Elf, he decided to turn a blind eye and remain quiet about it.

Like in everything in life, it's not good to overdo it.

Day 214

After I requested Blacksmith-san to do the repairs, I advanced the preparations to send my products to the Royal Capital and relaxed at ≪Parabellum Springs≫. After that, I finished my overnight stay. I didn't go back to the Royal Capital today but decided to go to the labyrinth city ≪Purgatory≫ instead.

I've already sent some members to the labyrinth city ≪Purgatory≫ near the royal capital, and I bought an unoccupied three-story house. As I wanted to run an integrated company, I planned it to be ≪Parabellum≫'s second shop.

I might need to change the model from the shop in the royal capital, which deals in arms and medicine. The business in the labyrinth is distinctive in a lot of ways.

It will be 【Dungeon Sherpas】.

The business model will be extremely simple: it will take care of transporting the luggage for those that are conquering dungeons, but are unable to purchase anything useful that can store magic items.

There's a high demand for them, so the current items that can store magic items are highly priced. This decreases the source of income of the adventures conquering the dungeon, which is solely based on the items drops.

Even though the weight and volume differs for each and despite the fact that it obstructs your movements and increase your risk of dying, backpacks where you try to put in as much as possible in order to take home, are quite coveted.

Even if you distribute it among your party members, you'll have to tearfully throw away some dropped items in the end.

The quantity of dropped items that you need to throw away can be high. And for the people who make their living from processing and selling these dropped items, it really was a waste to throw away item drops.

It might also be that if the supplied quantity can become more constant, it can prevent the product from becoming exhausted and prizes from skyrocketing.

Because of my various assumptions, I founded a business in order to eliminate waste in dungeons – a 【Dungeon Sherpa】 that carries items drops for those that are conquering the dungeon.

Because there are a lot of potential customers walking around the labyrinth city, it was convenient that the damage won't be relatively high if there were any failures.

Of course, there are some pitfalls for this business though.

Adventurers, merchant, dungeon sherpas… The former's point of view is that the dungeon sherpas are the weakest.

A merchant can be as good as an adventurer, but to begin with, dungeon sherpas are persons are employed by adventurers.

Adventurers spend as much money as they can on their equipment, because you risk your life when enter a dangerous zone like a labyrinth. That's why the pay for dungeon Sherpas who run around carrying the heavy luggage is considerably lower than average.

On top, depending on the employer's intention, they may cut their fee every time they make a trivial mistake.

There are a lot of people in different circumstances that can become a dungeon sherpa: children of dead adventurers, who end up having no relatives anymore and that want to do it out of protest, those forced to retire because of an injury or those that cannot match the power of adventurers

There are also quite a lot of problems that unified dungeon sherpas can come across and make them fail. For instance, even though they're below adventurers, dungeon sherpas risk their lives just the same. It is indeed, cruel work.

Naturally, I would get personally involved when they are mistaken for slaves and dues are not being paid. I won't permit something like that even as a joke.

If the promised amount of the official documents signed at the store is not being upheld, I am allowed to recuperate it in a different way.

In the beginning, there were a lot of idiots that jumped the bill, making me brandish the fist of retribution. Right now, it settled down.

As for those who'll work in the labyrinth city ≪Purgatory≫ branch: there are quite of hobgoblins and half-lords that finished their training up to a certain level already. All staff members are able to travel to a deepest level of a Derived dungeon in ≪Purgatory≫ on their own. Only powerful people can return unscathed.

Because they had improved equipment on top, it's a better option then the storage systems the adventurers have now for magic items.

Even if there are people who aim to steal the magic items in the dungeon, my people are quickly able to sense the ones with killing intent through the clones in the ear cuffs, so at least they can escape.

The base rate for transportation is around ten silver coins, which are each worth about 10.000.

If you want support such as information about how to approach the traps and dungeon monsters, it will also include 10% of the total earnings of the obtained items drops after you return from the dungeon.

If you want them to be involved in combat, the total fee will be increased to 20%.

Getting an additional lecture about battling the dungeon, it will increase the total to 30%.

Being rescued from a life-threating situation will increase the total sum to 40%. The rate increases rapidly.

Frankly speaking, the price to employ the dungeon sherpas does not even compare to what can be gained from successfully conquering a dungeon.

The employment cost of 10 silver coins, can turn into tens to dozens in returns of extra items.

Even if all options are chosen, that increases cost up to 40% for now. Still the adventurers who are not able to readily buy storage systems for magic items are likely to pick it.

However, looking at the size of customer base of the dungeon sherpas, it became unexpectedly popular when you consider the price to employ a person more powerful than yourself is rather cheap.

Our reputation spread by word-of-mouth, and there are already some regular customers.

We might even have possibly established close relationships with those who could become famous in the future, which is already having an increasing effect on the amount of customers who have come to buy the goods at our store.

Because the store also bought item drops, I will need to establish a way to export them. This will make a lot of things easier.

I plan to govern all dungeon sherpas in the labyrinth city ≪Puragatory≫. I've been working behind the scenes in a lot of ways already, and I'll expect some results in the near future.

Day 215

Remember the war that started around the 150th day?

In a country other than Kingdom or the Empire, another war was happening between countries that were far away from the Kingdom.

I left it unattended because I was recently busy over here, but it looks like the victorious nation was the ≪Lumen Holy Kingdom≫ —— which I'll call the Holy Kingdom from now on. It makes my dealings a bit more troublesome, both on and under the table.

The Holy Kingdom that advocates human supremacy will now even be more powerful because it absorbed the defeated country ≪Erinbe Iron Forest Country≫.

This made an already vast country expand even more. It will even surpass the Empire, which in itself is more powerful than the Kingdom.

It's not only that, but on top, because of the war, they took in ≪Erinbe Iron Forest Country≫'s 【Legendary Heroes】—— who are both 【Heroes】 and 【Great Heroes】. Because the 【Legendary Heroes】 now also belong to the Holy Kingdom, their number has increased to a surprising amount of 24.

When you look at the Kingdom, it only has 4. And when I think about the Empire, they have about 12 of them. Isn't their remarkable war potential bizarre?

There's also the ≪East Grand Beast Kingdom≫, ruled by 【Beast King】 Lionel, that has a long-time bad standing with the Holy Kingdom —— I'll call them Beast Kingdom from now on. Perhaps, if you would consider the allied forces of them together with the Demon Empire ruled by 【Demon Emperor】 Hyulton, it would be possible to balance the odds, which is something you'd want before any fight.

While I left out some details, you could say the Holy Kingdom is moving gears.

I've caught more spies and assassins than before in other countries, and while I assumed these cases were sporadic, they might have been happening for a reason.

Even though I'm not sure, there might be a high possibility that they also attacked Minokichi-kun.

Beastmen of low standing were trained and sent as assassins. It's a classic trick used by the Holy Kingdom in high-risk missions.

Looks like Minokichi-kun possibly came across one of their mission. They were probably assaulted because I am regarded as dangerous because of my actions in the Kingdom and they were only few in number.

But unfortunately, because they were annihilated, I don't know if that's true. Even for me, it was impossible to gather any more information on it.

I would have known in an instant if there would have been but one survivor, but I guess it cannot be helped that they were annihilated.

Should I provoke a fight in order to see if my assumptions are truly correct?

And if they 24 people, would they notice if 12 of them disappear? I wonder…

If the Empire's 【Regal Order】 took in the four 【Legendary Heroes】, then there wouldn't be a reason for these 【Legendary Heroes】 to be part of the Holy Kingdom anymore.

Yes, it's highly likely they'd be hostile against the Holy Kingdom.

While I'm seeing signs that a Great War is not far off, my 【Intuition】 tells me there's "something" more behind this. Therefore, I ordered some clones to go to the Holy Kingdom for more detailed intelligence gathering.

What is in that country? There might be something relating to my 【Psalms】.

Day 216

After a calm day, there was nothing special about this evening either.

I finished the morning training, handled the store's paperwork and ate a delicious dinner.

Because I had a lot of things going on recently, it wasn't bad to end such a day in such a relaxed way.

It's good to take some rest and feel relieved. It looks like some of the built-up stress had disappeared.

And then, at night, an announcement resounded in my mind.

【World Psalms [Legend of the Black Eclipse Demon], 【Sub-cast Member】 Dodomeki has ranked up】

【Since the "1st" Condition 【Rank Up】 has been cleared, the title 【Shiki Koukan】 will be granted】

【World Psalms [Legend of the Black Eclipse Demon], 【Formation of the Eight Demon Generals】 has been completed. All abilities of the 【Formation of the Eight Demon Generals】 have been released alongside it.】

【When all members of the 【Formation of the Eight Demon Generals】 are joined in battle, they will be able to use united attack 【Devastating Attack ・ Eight Demon Formation's Massacre】.】

【When all members of the 【Formation of the Eight Demon Generals】 are joined in battle, they will be able to use formation effect 【Unique Formation ・ Eight Demon Battle Formation】.】

Apparently, Dodomeki was the correct assumption to be the last person, and not the five ogre squad.

Though I was worried what would happen if it was the five ogre squad, I put those thoughts aside for now.

I asked Dodomeki about it through the ear cuffs. She became a “Kugimeki variant”.

Kugimeki, like her name suggests, is a kind of female ogre that has nine eyes. Though she has less eyes than when she was “Dodomeki”, who had them all over her body. Unlike when she was a Dodomeki that needed her high number of eyes to supplement her intelligence gathering, her current number seems much more efficient as the quality of each eye improved.

The positions of her eyes are as follows: she has a pair of eyes in the same place as humans, another pair as part of her eyebrows, an eye bigger than the others in the center of them, a couple in her palms and a pair on the back of each hand.

Kugimeki, compared to Dodomeki-chan, has long, black, glossy hair held together by an ornate hairpin and she had the appearance of a beautiful Japanese woman with a thin veil of make-up. Though the other wouldn’t know about that.

Her Japanese clothes are a sort of an organic armor. The black cloth is embroidered with the image of a blooming cherry tree along with petals.

As she whirls around with her red Japanese umbrella, which is her organic weapon, her red geta makes a clip-clop sound.

If she went out on a night when there's a full moon, it would certainly be attractive.

As far as her combat abilities go, they were as unimpressive as before. At least she is able to self-defend by emitting mysterious rays from her eyes.

Like before, her significance is in the fact that she gathers intelligence and commands the army from the rear.

After having heard the general announcement, I quickly fell asleep.

I'll start work early tomorrow.

Day 217

When I got up, the belly of Redhead, who slept next to me, had grown.

It's the same thing that happened with the sisters, Blacksmith-san and Alchemist-san.

In other words, she got pregnant, and another child will be born.

Though I might have gotten nervous before, but I've grown used to it after the fifth time. I didn't panic and quickly went on with the preparations.

Fortunately, we were in our mansion in the Royal Capital. I was able to prepare the necessary things immediately, no matter what it was. On top, we had a sense of security.

Will it be a boy? Or a girl? I'm starting to worry about the name now.

By the time evening was there, it was born.

While the evening sun was setting over the mountain range, my fifth child was safely born.

【World Psalms [Legend of the Black Eclipse Demon], 【■■■■】the was previously locked, has been obtained】

【【■■■■】became 【18 Demon Warlords】. The 【18 Demon Warlords】 will be chosen from Yatendouji's subordinates. 】

【The【18 Demon Warlords】 will each be chosen and announced when the conditions have been fulfilled】

It was the second consecutive day that an announcement resounded in my head.

While I got it at the same time I unlocked the 【8 Demon Generals】 and 【Demon's Wife 】 in my 【World Psalms [Legend of the Black Eclipse Demon] 】. Now I understand that 【■■■■】 was 【18 Demon Warlords】, but it wasn't released at the time because the objections weren't cleared. Since that mystery was solved, I can put it aside.

Redhead's child wasn't a 【Mixblood】 like Auro and Argento. Nor was it a 【High Ogre 】 like Oniwaka or a human like Nicola.

It was an 【Apostle Lord Variant】. Because it was a variant, it was born with a Divine Blessing. It got both the Divine Blessings of the 【God of Jewels】 and the 【Demigod of Dark Beasts】.

Seeing as I was from an extinct species, I did have thoughts about my child being of an extinct species as well. Did I became a variant because it no longer counted as an extinct species the moment I became it?

My fifth child was a girl.

Her hair was the color of the ash that is left behind after something burnt out. Her eyes were as beautiful as rubies. Her tanned skin had tattoos similar to mine. They were all over her body, shaped in the form of a diamond. Apparently, part of her skin can transform as well. It might be a characteristic from the 【God of Jewels】.

Her forearms and legs were covered in dark red hair. I wonder if it's the influence from 【 Demigod of Dark Beasts】.

Though the hair on her forearms and legs feel very smooth, they seem to be some kind of armor. Even if cut by a steel knife, not even a scratch is left behind.

A horn grew on her forehead, like the ones ogres have, with a hidden radiance like an obsidian.

The horn was soft at birth, but after ten minutes passed, it's so sharp that it can break a steel knife.

Luckily, her horn is still short, so there's no risk of her cutting anything unintentionally. But because it's still dangerous, I made a horn sheath out of the skin of a Jadar Wyvern and put it on in order to prevent any accidents, for now.

By the way, she has two ogre orbs that Lords also have. They are hidden in the bristles of her forearms. Her ogre orbs are like beautiful jewels, with a color that's a mix between blue and red.

Like her three siblings, aside from Nicola, her growth spurt sets in early. Her size cannot be compared to a common human baby anymore. She might already start to move after weeks, like Auro and Argento did.

Five children have been born. As for the name of my third daughter, I'll call her Opushi.

In terms of potential power, she might have the most out of my five children. She's a very lovely child.

Day 218

This morning, the remodeling of the first floor of the mansion was finally completed.

A strong wind is blowing snow around and it looks like it's very cold outside. Because the first floor is fully equipped with a high priced air-conditioning magic item, I didn't notice it was cold.

Many massage tables were lined up in a large room to be able to apply treatment to as many people as possible. I divided each by barriers so that one space could be separated from another, while still maintaining a sense of freedom.

I designed the interior in a way that it's not too showy and it gives off a sense of relaxation. But I still used accessories of considerably high quality, because my main customers will be the daughters of aristocrats.

I could have prepared a small private room for our guests, which would have been absolutely fine for the time being. However, I scheduled it to be done in the large basic room.

Aside from the large room, I prepared another room where one can enjoy sweets and a stone sauna.

Seeing as it had special minerals in this world suitable for a stone sauna, I was so excited I wanted to try it for myself. I was lucky that I could obtain this at a cheap rate because of my connections with the Tomboy Princess.

Because I performed beekeeping with the bearbees, I have regular access to high quality honey. Our offering of sweets will become good advertising materials that can be offered at a low price.

Oh my, because the preparations were already completed to this extent, it will now be necessary to invite the Tomboy Princess or the First Queen for advertising.

There are still a ton of things to be done though.

However, I let it be for now, and decided to take the rest of the day off.

I did this because I wanted to spend time with Auro and Argento, who were taking care of Opushi, and Opushi, who grew very big overnight.

While I lovingly take care of my children, I noted to myself that I have great kids.

Day 219

Even though it has been snowing since this morning, and it kept on going, Minokichi-kun and the others reached the Royal Capital today.

The skeleton centipedes were camouflaged as carriages with our group flag shown as best as possible. The fact that I was currently waiting at the gate of the Royal Capital with the Tomboy Princess sitting on my shoulders didn't cause a big uproar, but the form of Minokichi-kun coming through on top of his Armored Big bear, that was as big as a house, resembled the incarnation of a Gokusotsu.

They've never seen a Minotaur species before, and now they see one leading his subordinates while approaching the Royal capital from afar. If I didn't make arrangements beforehand, it would have been a serious affair, forcing them to gather the 【Heroes】 to meet them head-on.

Thank god I handled this before any blood was spilled.

Minokichi-kun had returned to the Great Forest through a separate route —— along with Asue-chan, Oniwaka, Supesei-san and Burasato-san. Now, I summoned all troupes to the Royal Capital in order to gather all my generals together.

Because I only summoned the executives and influential people to Royal Capital, they're not a high number. As for the rest that were in the Great Forest, I arranged for them to eat the ingredients I left behind.

By the way, there're five main kinds of ingredients I want us to eat together.

It included all bosses from "Warpidron" to "Lethal Dead ・ Blood Eater ・ Pochi", except for "Lizard Skull ・ War Salamander", which we've eaten before and "Aquarium ・ Ball

Golem”, which no one else can aside from me because it’s a golem. I’ve also excluded “Shark Head ・ Bolt Wyrm”.

I left out “Grief Charybdis” and “Red Armed Geminyuvia” as a precaution because they look similar to humans.

Because there were humans amongst the group members, there could have been resistance.

Since I’m going to eat these two corpses personally later, I’ll conceal their existence.

The floor bosses are enormous, so there should be more than enough quantity. I cooked the dishes together with the ingredients I gathered in the dungeon. The dishes were huge and luxurious.

While it still wasn’t enough because Minokichi-kun was a big eater, everyone was laughing with satisfaction and the residence was lively all day long.

Fooling around from time to time isn’t bad.

【Ability learned 【Parasitic Beast Injection】】
【Ability learned 【Beast Corpse Chastising Technique】】
【Ability learned 【Blood Eater Beast 】】

Day 220

Last night's feast left the corpses of drunk people lying about.

Even though I mentioned corpses, they weren't dead. Most of them were brought down by the bad side-effects of their hangover.

It was inevitable as we emptied several barrels of labyrinth liquor with a high percentage of alcohol. Even though it had nothing to do with me, I decided to make today a holiday day. I started off the morning by doing easy dissection work. I cut open the "Shark Head・Bolt Wyrm" and took out the internal organs.

Dissecting in itself is not difficult because I've gotten used to it, but it still took a while due to its sheer size. Nevertheless, I completed it before noon.

After I took out any internal organs that were in its body, it took a pause from cutting up the meat. I was at a level where I was able to tell apart the fat from the flesh only by looking at it. I could easily imagine that it had the finest taste of anything I've eaten so far.

However, I didn't eat anything, I only dissected it.

While the internal organs that I extracted will be delicious for sure, its entire body is going to be the material for 【Equip Exoskeleton】.

The external skeleton 【Red Bear Beast King's Prestige】, which I obtained from the Red Bear, excelled in land combat; while the external skeleton 【Jade Eagle King's Flight】, which I obtained from the Jade Eagle, excelled in aerial combat.

Because I had an exoskeleton that was superior on land and one that was superior in the air, the only thing that was left was the one for the sea.

The material from “Shark Head ・ Bolt Wyrm” was ideal for it.

I immediately noticed its huge head. I leveraged my break to put on the body with 【Equip Exoskeleton】 and get some practice with it.

And so, the third exoskeleton was fine-tuned and registered without any issues.

The following information is projected in my head:

【Ability 【Equip Exoskeleton】

Entry “1” 【Red Bear Beast King’s Prestige】
Entry “2” 【Jade Eagle King’s Flight】
Entry “3” 【Lightning Shark Dragon Lord’s Placoid Scales】 successfully registered
Entry “4” 【Empty】
Entry “5” 【Empty】

It is still possible to register 2 additional exoskeletons

How many would you like to register? 】

It looks like the name of the exoskeleton had become 【Lightning Shark Dragon Lord’s Placoid Scales】.

One of the characteristics of the exoskeleton was that it had an overall blue theme. It had a fluent form and there were few irregularities.

A countless amount of fins made out of lightning gems formed a line on the back, and there are sharp blade fins on the forearms as well. There is webbing between the fingers, and a big fin at the end of a long tail which grew from my hip region. The webbing and the back fin are support to the latter, as the tail is the main way of propulsion.

One could say the design is a compact human version of the “Shark Head ・ Bolt Wyrm”. I personally like it.

While I check out the touch and feel while performing various movements, I found out that there was a transformation mechanism built in to the exoskeleton.

During said transformation, the tail expands, and the lower part of my body becomes like a snake.

I imagine it like a lamia, which is half human, half snake.

Because I can make interesting movements even on land with this shape, it looks to be amphibious.

It was a very satisfying day, I obtained an excellent exoskeleton.

Starting from tomorrow, I’ll put great effort in gathering more things. I am planning to challenge the 【Age of the Gods dungeons】 where I haven’t been before.

I’m looking forward.

This time, I am going to choose a place where a mountain of ingredients can be obtained.

Day 221

Right now, the Female Samurai is the shop manager, working as hard as she can managing the headquarters in the Royal Capital when I'm not around. Even if something unexpected were to happen that the Female Samurai wouldn't be able to handle, she would still be able to communicate with me through the ear cuff, making it possible for her to receive instructions even from far away.

With ≪Solitude≫'s helping hands functioning as the manpower, they're likely to be able to deal with it as long as it's nothing major.

Therefore, it isn't necessary for me to stay in the Royal Capital.

Because it became clear to me that, everything I've done up until now, can be considered as the actions of a simple ogre, my place of activity will, sooner or later, gradually steer away from the Kingdom.

Though there are several reasons, the biggest one is the regrettable fact that the only 【Age of the Gods dungeons】 in the Kingdom are of 【Demigod】 rank, and there are only a few of them.

I think that from now on I'll strengthen my main force by conquering an 【Age of the Gods dungeon】 not by myself but with Kanami-chan and the 【8 Demon Generals】 as well. I'm planning to do a 【God】 rank, which is a rank higher than 【Demigod】 rank. I did think about challenging a 【Great God】 rank, but there are only 5 of them in the world. Regardless, I will need to leave the Kingdom whatever I do.

Of course, I am still able to enjoy a 【Demigod】 rank, but seeing as there are so few around here, we'd finish capturing them in no time.

That's why I decided to go to an 【Age of the Gods dungeon】 outside the Kingdom. I considered first diving a 【Demigod】 rank dungeon and then switch to a higher difficulty 【God】 rank one.

I felt that it would be too early for the group, aside from me, to challenge a 【God】 rank dungeon. But I already challenged a 【Demigod】 rank dungeon and because Minokichi-kun and the others knew that, they were set on conquering a 【God】 rank dungeon without fail. And as I wanted to challenge one myself, I didn't plan on changing the difficulty for the moment.

We agreed that if we are unable to go through the early levels of the dungeon the way we want, we would immediately change to a different dungeon.

Because the lower levels of a 【God】 rank are somewhat similar to the depths of the middle layer of a 【Demigod】 rank. It's pretty difficult to stay alive.

Still, we're only considering going into a 【God】 rank dungeon. Considering the most prominent out of all the potential places, it'll likely be the Demon Empire.

The Demon Empire is on very bad terms with the Holy Kingdom. The 【Age of the Gods dungeon】 there is called 【Flames of the Fire Dragon Mountain】.

Even if the national relations are bad, it turn into a large-scale war that easily. The current situation is more like that off a cat-and-mouse game between spies and some small skirmishes.

The 【Flames of the Fire Dragon Mountain】 has a structure that is different from the underground of a conventional dungeon. It's one of the dungeons classified as a natural enclosure, which I haven't challenged before.

The natural enclosure model can be easily explained as a dungeon that has its exterior and interior separated by a special area called a 【Border Place】, turning it into a huge 【Boundary Range】 of which the entire interior became a dungeon.

A natural enclosure model can come in different shapes and sizes, such as a large valley or a great forest. This time around, the 【Flames of the Fire Dragon Mountain】 is a volcano type that is classified as a natural enclose with a particular high degree of difficulty.

It's a rising spiral-shaped volcano with the dungeon boss' lair in the center. On top, it's a place where harmful volcano gasses gush out, a place where countless rivers of lava flow around, a place with a cruel environment that resembled a forest of blazing trees, including plants-like dungeon monsters that adapted to it.

The many dungeon monsters that frequently appear here are formidable adversaries. Their types are aligned to rock and flames. The path of an adventurer conquering the dungeon is being blocked every step of the way by heinous traps everywhere. The special characteristic of these traps comes from the area they're set up in: they're related to lava.

On top, the dungeon boss here is a high-ranking 【Wisdom Dragon】. It's an uncaptured dungeon with a long history. No one has been able to fully go through it yet.

It's still unconquered because it's packed with frequently appearing field bosses —— which are of the same rank as the floor bosses that appear in a conventional underground dungeon. On top, anyone that arrives at the center of the spiral-shaped volcano, is slaughtered. That means that nobody has been able to beat the powerful dungeon boss.

Because there aren't a lot of people challenging this dungeon, it's only natural that the accumulated information on this dungeon is scarce.

Its location is on the border of the Devil Empire and the Holy Kingdom, causing adventurers of both countries to try and challenge it. It's considerably more difficult than any other 【God】 rank natural enclosures.

To give a rough example: It began by a reckless, strong adventurer seeking a way to conquer it and assembling a party mixed out of good and bad people. If you trace back history, this mighty warrior that could match a thousand belonged to either the Holy Kingdom or the Demon Empire. His reputation even surpassed 6 【Legendary Heroes】. He challenged the dungeon with a great number of associates.

During the time they challenged the dungeon, they displayed an overwhelming power as a unit. It was thought that their time needed to conquer the dungeon would be short.

All of their members had experience in conquering at least a 【Demigod】 ranked dungeon. The one leading them even succeeded in conquering a 【God】 ranked dungeon.

However, that was the last anyone heard of these 【Legendary Heroes】.

Not one person of the party that included 【Legendary Heroes】 had returned. It's not clear what happened.

However, violent battle noises resounded at the foot of the mountain during the time the 【Legendary Heroes】 were challenging the dungeon and a 【Wisdom Dragon】 was seen flying high in the sky. Moreover, the sounds didn't subside for several days. Looks like it was possible to reach the dungeon boss' lair, but it's very likely they were defeated.

From the bottom of my heart, I personally wanted to eat the 【Legendary Hero】 that was said to be so strong. If only he would be around in the present.

However even with a 【Legendary Hero】 challenging it, there wasn't anyone that has conquered this dungeon. The main reason looks to be the fact that the dungeon boss is a not a Lesser Dragon, but a genuine one.

At any rate, unlike an underground structure where space is restricted to some degree, the dungeon boss of this natural enclosure was a 【Wisdom Dragon】. They are able to freely soar through the sky, with the exception of a Water Dragon. The characteristics of this kind

of dragon include its high intelligence and its ability to draw from a huge amount of magic power. It uses an incredible magic air attack that far surpasses any human one. This makes the degree of difficulty jump up.

Even in the best circumstance, it would be difficult to get past its huge body and super-hard scales. On top, there's its saturation attack that causes a downpour that restricts any kind of counterattack. Even for someone like a 【Legendary Hero】, a hard fight would be inevitable.

Moreover, because it's a 【God】 rank, could it be that the companions of the 【Legendary Hero】 wouldn't be able to resist a lot of blows and were murdered before long?

The 【Legendary Heroes】 might not have been able to develop the techniques would have prevented them from being trampled. I give a silent prayer in tribute.

How would it taste? I decided to keep this deep desire for myself.

By the way, there were precious minerals here that were appropriate to the overall level of difficulty. And because the rare item drops from the dungeon monsters will become featured products hereafter, there's merit to trying to conquer the dungeon, even if it's not possible to go after the dungeon boss.

And while I also examined the other prospects, and they each had their own merits, the 【Flames of the Fire Dragon Mountain】 is the one that kept popping in my head.

If you really want to attempt one, it's best to try here.

However, 2 of my 8 Demon Generals complained 『Hey! It's unreasonably hot in there. Nevertheless, it might be a feast for my eyes when the men are battling in that atmosphere and breaking a sweat… …whether they like it or not… … *slurp slurp (sfx)*』 『Hey! The current me might be a burden just a little……』 It might not be something positive to say before entering the labyrinth, but it looks like it's necessary for me to get them motivated.

I could have decided that it would be better for the two demons that weren't motivated —— Irofu-chan and Dodome-chan that became Kugime-chan —— to leave. But seeing as the objective is to confirm the battle formation effect that forms when the 8 Demon Generals are together, and to see it in actual combat, I will take them along no matter what it takes.

Though I can order them to forcibly come along, at this point, I want to understand the reason behind why these two didn't want to come along.

The undead Irufo-chan is susceptible to flames, and I'm afraid Kugime-chan's big flaws in her battle abilities might make everyone anxious and less dependable when inside the labyrinth.

Because they both had a valid reason and because it's their first time, I'm going to gently persuade the both of them.

As for tomorrow.

I will perform the traditional mock battles that I normally have with Minokichi-kun for the entire day.

We haven't been using our special weapons recently, as the damage to the environment will become too big. Even if we didn't use our special weapons, the martial arts he learned from me still proved useful. Now Minokichi-kun is able to perfectly handle his superior physique and his strength has surely increased.

His unleashes fast fists continuously and they hit so hard that it can break bone. He adequately aims at my vital parts to destroy me.

Warding off all attacks, I increase my offense to break Minokichi-kun's posture and make him collapse, but because of his excellent physical ability, he was would be able to force himself to rally.

The Minokichi-kun from the past would have dropped to the ground from this for sure, ending the fight, but the current Minokichi-kun didn't seem to be phased by such attacks anymore.

His rapid growth felt reliable, and I spontaneously smiled. Without taking a rest, I started to fight more seriously.

I am grateful having a partner that's close to my level, who I don't need to go easy on.

Day 222

After a morning workout session, I began persuading the 2 demonesses to go underground with me, but they weren't very happy with the idea. Well, I suspected from the beginning even if I did try to persuade them, they aren't going to be motivated. However, that doesn't mean I intend to give up so easily. But I've got to persuade them somehow before we head out of the kingdom towards our destination.

Putting that aside, now that I've finish my work for the day, I think I'll enjoy some lunch. The said work is to publicly announce the fact that we opened a massage parlor.

For the sake of quick advertisement, we invited Tomboy Princess, the person with the highest status as our customer. But since the Tomboy Princess on her own isn't enough, we also invited several guests ourselves, and asked her to invite a few more maids to take care of her belongings as well as several guests of her own choice .

I chose her not because I was lazy, but rather to strengthen relations with the people of her faction.

Thus, we also extended our invitations to the first queen.

Looking slightly more cheerful than usual, she looked much younger than her actual age, but also retaining her adult charm through her dress.

Just behind her is the Dark Hero and four maids, two of them are familiar faces.

ED note: Probs the two maids looking at the queen licking Aporou knife during their first meeting...urgh..

Well, if you put the Tomboy Princess in charge of selecting additional guests, it's almost guaranteed that she'll choose them. Anticipating that, I wasn't surprised, and recently, I'm

beginning to get used to the first queen's habits (since it's someone Else's interest, we can only give up).

Arriving on the skeleton spiders specially reserved to pick up our guests, there is the first queen and the Tomboy Princess, who had a profound smile on her face. Most likely, she struck a deal with the first queen for some sort of benefit in exchange for being on the invitation list.

And looking at the wry smile from the Boy Knight, I was almost certain of this fact.

I have a feeling that starting from last time the Tomboy Princess had ceased to conceal her character.

Oh well, she looks much cuter with a bright, happy smile than having one hidden with darkness anyway.

Back to business. We've asked our guest to sample our oil massages as well as our stone bed massages.

During the bedrock massages, guests are asked to wear special clothing, before they lay down on the sheets laid over the stone bed.

After 30 minutes under infrared light, and from the sheets warming their bodies, they all looked very happy due to experiencing something new.

Having relieved their body of accumulated fatigue, wide happy smiles appeared on their faces.

Just like that, we grasped their hearts, making them our regulars.

After that, in order for our guests to stay hydrated, we sold drinks made from a mixure of salt, spring, and juice procured from the dungeons. They are a very popular commodity.

I'll have to think about new flavours in the future. To avoid any trouble during massages, only comrades with the same sex as the guest will perform the massaging.

The oil we used is made by Dorian-san via blending honey that she collected in the great forest, a precious material that can instantly provide a variety of positive effects.

This oil has the effect such as promoting skin health and rejuvenation. But the most wonderful effect this oil provides is improving metabolism, allowing you to burn extra calories.

The effects are apparent after using it once, and there aren't any side effects present unlike certain magic drugs out there.

Not only is it comfortable and pleasant, but it's also a safe, all-natural massage. After telling our guest about the effect, it's impressive how their eyes lit up immediately.

As expected from Dorian-san's race, to not only possess superior ability to seduce the opposite sex, but also her dexterity in the field of cosmetology is very surprising.

This oil is like a drug, it increases the number of clients that come back because of its abilities, I am extremely grateful to her.

This time, I will have to pick up the perfect souvenir for her.

After the procedure was over, I asked for their feedback, they are all very happy.

Everyone said they want to come back again, this influx of visitors is good, looks like this project will also be successful too.

This time, all the guests are likely to become our regular client, this is something we got to cherish.

In addition, those who participated aren't limited to the noble ladies. We also allowed the maids to participate. So they too, can help us spread the word. Butlers and maids, receive

a higher salary, compared to commoners, so they can come to us to relieve fatigue after a full day of work.

Thus, we successfully completed the trial session, and guests are sent home the same way they arrived.

But after we sent home the invited guests, 8 people stayed with us for dinner: Tomboy Princess, Boy Knight, the first queen, the hero of darkness, as well as 4 maids.

Seeing that she was going to cook for the queen as well as the Hero of darkness, the maid who helped around the house was in high spirits with a happy smile while she was cooking. I, who also helped with the cooking can't say the same though.

ED Note: Officially confirmed, it was the maid smiling since she was serving dishes to the Hero of Darkness and her country's queen.

And during dinner, the newborn Opushii would occasionally smile and pout her cheeks. The queen also often touched her jewel-like skin.

Her mother Redhead, whose face had a happy smile since the new-born Opushii is talking to the queen, and moved by the hero of darkness. Both being mothers, the queen and Redhead formed some kind of friendship. Even though it is a little late to reflect upon the relation between the Tomboy Princess and I, this spectacle of three individuals with completely different social status is quite a stunning sight. If it were somewhere else, someone talking to the queen like that would have gotten them executed for blasphemy. But nobody really cares about our behavior. Tomboy Princess and company returned home late at night.

The bone spiders wading through the snow at night while illuminating the streets looked like messengers of hell, seeking their prey.

Day 223

Finally, we have officially decided to challenge [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain].

According to my research, not only is this place the most profitable, it's also relatively close.

In addition, if something ever happens in the Holy Kingdom in the future, having a base in the Demonic Kingdom is always a good idea.

However, we are still facing some problems.

Here's the list, from the relatively easy to solve ones, to the more annoying ones:

One of these problems is Kugime-chan's response : "I do not want to go because I will only become a hindrance". For the sake of resolving this issue, I will act today.

Clearly gently persuading her isn't going to work. It's not because it's inconvenient, it's simply too time consuming, so I might as well use the time to persuade her to strengthen herself instead.

Thus, cold morning, the snow is slowly falling from the sky, we went to the training court in the mansion.

Thus, on this cold morning, when the snow is falling slowly from the sky, we're now training in the center of the mansion's training grounds

Kugime chan is equipped with her Bio-Weapon, a bamboo umbrella, as well as a magic item in the form of a fan [Oiran of the Night gales], made of black silver and Jade.

As for me, I'm only armed with two trees, cut to form two poles 2-meters in length.

Both of us are protected by our Bio-Armor (in my case it's only from waist down, so I've worn my poncho).

Armor aside, the difference in attack power between two poles and living weapons and magic items combined is simply too overwhelming.

Not only can't I use them as defense since they're too fragile, if I tried to attack her head on, they'll simply break as well since they can't withstand the impact.

Well, it's good to give her a bit of a handicap. and even with the overwhelming difference in weapons, the 9 eyes on Kugime's face are now wide open, all of them showing fear and anxiety.

Well, even with this level of handicap, it's not that much of a problem. Effortlessly, I swung the two poles with my wrist and fingers while taking a step towards Kugime.

But, every time I take a step forward, Kugime takes 2 steps backwards. When I take 2 steps, she takes 6. The distance between is only increasing.

Accurately calculating my attack range at the last moment, she deftly avoided my attacks with a very small margin, just barely out of range.

I tried to observe how she would respond when I used a feint, and she immediately picked it up. However, it's probably the result of her gut feeling rather than observation, since she used some unnecessary movement.

So this time, I didn't use a feint, but an actual attack.

Using my wooden pole, I strike the pebble, and aimed it towards the serious face of Kugime. She even perceived the pebble, and avoided it.

Apparently becoming [9 Demon Divine Eyes (Kugimeki) Subspecies] maximizes her ability to collect and process information. She can analyze my behaviors. She even has a special

ability where she can read my movements before I even began moving. If I moved at a constant speed, it's impossible for me to reach her.

I can do something similar, but Kugime is far faster and more accurate than I am. While this is all true, her superiority only lies within this domain. Her combat ability is still quite low as expected. Among the 8 Demon Generals, her physical capability is quite weak and frail.

Thus, she is unable to utilize her precognition abilities to their fullest potential.

If I became a little more serious, by the time she predicted my actions, her body wouldn't be able to keep up with my speed.

Even when I pulled my punches, the shock of the impact from my pole hitting her traveled throughout her body, knocked the air out of her lungs, and she began rolling on the ground, writhing in pain.

After doing this several more times, she finally stopped. But she was still unable to get on her feet.

In order to numb the pain, she curled up into a fetal position and trembled. To fall into this state from a single strike, it's no wonder she didn't have the motivation to go into the dungeon.

Kugime had a strong sense of responsibility, that's why she was worried she would become a burden to others.

But from my point of view, her low combat abilities aren't a problem at all. If there's a problem with her defense, we'll simply need to help her get better. Since Seiji is coming along, and he has the ability to defend and heal himself and his comrades, we will be able to recover.

Even if she isn't directly involved in the fight, Kugime can still collect information from her surrounding with very high accuracy. She can be a biological radar for sensing enemies and traps.

That's why, to me her fear of being a burden is only groundless fear.

Since her role isn't to directly fight, her combat abilities will be sufficient if she can defend herself for just a few seconds.

And she cleared this condition.

All she needs to do is try it once, and her anxiety will dissipate.

Although, we'll need to work on her lack of confidence and emotional control. Because of her fear of going into a [God] class dungeon, I tried to convince Kugime gently at first. Since that didn't work, I'll carry out training which she reluctantly joined. I'm going to pound some self-confidence and readiness into her, even forcibly if I have to.

"All is well, all is well. Even if 1 or 2 of your arms are broken, or 1 of your organs ruptured, my [Blood Elixir] will be able to patch you up."

"Therefore calm down, and let us continue training until the anxiety has passed."

After that Kugime had a look of despair on her face, as if her spirit had left her.

The training continued for about half a day.

Finally after rolling several hundred times on the ground, breaking bones and rupturing organs, we successfully completed the training.

Since I have to beat her into shape, we will be continuing until tomorrow; though Kugime-chan had a look of disappointment on her face. She shouldn't be so perturbed from just this.

Kugime-chan continued on while completely covered with blood, breaking half of her bones, and receiving countless wounds while under the influence of high-speed healing; nothing scary really.

If she was motivated from the start, we wouldn't have to go through this. I'm keeping that thought inside.

Day 224

As a result of yesterday's training, Kugime-chan looked like a zombie. But there is a major improvement.

I asked Minokichi-kun to attack her with his battle axe. But not only did she react much faster than before, she also managed to dodge the attacks unscathed.

Enraged, Minokichi began to attack seriously. But all his attempts were completely read, and he didn't manage to land a single hit.

Of course if Minokichi fought with all his abilities and with the intent of killing her, the result would have been quite different. But as a result of yesterday's hellish training, Kugime, with a broken smile on her face, had her defense significantly strengthened.

Unless she's required to attack, she'll be fine in the dungeon with this level of self-defense.

If she still had doubts about taking part in the dungeon conquering, that would have been a problem. However, when we asked her about it, she had a 180 turn in her mindset, and was quite determined.

Then I breathed a sign of relief.

This is a good sign: "Please spare me from training with the two of you" and she begged earnestly.

Minokichi, who was standing nearby, was looking very pleased.

Oh well, that's one problem down.

Now that we solved Kugime's problem, lets move on to the next one.

This next problem has to do with Irofu-chan. Similar to Kugime, I already gave up on using gentle persuasion and decided to use force instead. Today I'll be confronting her on the training grounds.

Except, she's not her usual self.

While looking at me with a vulgar expression while drooling, she had a look full of desire, and eyes that reflected insanity.

But that's all good, since she radiated madness due the power of [God of Corrosion's Divine Protection], manifesting in a physical form. It turned the snow around Irofu-chan into some sort of strange purple substance.

Some sort of purple, decaying liquid dripped from the tip of the spear on her right hand onto the floor, releasing some sort of blackish purple gas as soon as it touched the snow on the ground. The gas moved as if it had a will of its own, forming an illusion of the [God of Corrosion] behind Irofu-chan, with a book on one hand and a brush on the other.

The reason she is in this abnormal state is because in order to get Irofu-chan motivated, I made a bet that if she wins, I'll do one thing she tells me to do, of course as long as its within my abilities.

To quickly persuade the lazy, uncommitted Irokuso-chan, I had to use this as bait.

Frankly, I thought that was careless of me.

It's the first time I saw her in this state, and it looks quite dangerous.

I can feel the danger simply by confronting her.

What's even worse is the apparition of the God of Corrosion behind her. I don't know if it has a will of its own, but what I do know is that it had began to scatter it's blackish purple gas, and anything that touches the said gas will rot without fail.

Even the snow and the ground itself began to corrode, it's easy to imagine living organisms rotting alive if they touch that gas.

If you only take combat abilities into consideration I'm the superior one. However, I'm currently mentally overwhelmed. I began to regret fighting her, and just thinking about what she's going to wish for if she wins is a tormenting thought.

In the end, I won.

But the battle was a close one. In combat, I surpassed her, but her persistence is overwhelming. Even after I broke both her arms and legs, she started to inch towards me like a caterpillar. Even I would be scared at this sight.

I tried giving her a concussion, but she still didn't stop moving, just like a zombie.

At the end, I wasn't wounded, but the mental shock I received was so devastating it could very well end up as a trauma. Today, I swore an oath to NEVER make a bet with Irofu-chan ever again.

Even though there were some unexpected twists and turns in the process, I have successfully convinced the 2 female demons in the end. I may have used force, but it worked.

Thus, in a few days, after dealing with some minor problems, we'll be leaving the capital.

So let's start preparing immediately for our departure.

Day 225

Today, the wind has been blowing snow around non-stop since this morning.

It's violently moving around a mixture of ice and snow, and the snowfall has reached a height where it could bury me.

Because the sky is covered with dark clouds, there's no sunshine at all. Today doesn't seem to be a bright day at all.

Since the weather is getting considerably rougher, I'll have to stop doing the trainings outside, even if I intend to still do them as much as possible in the open.

The members of ≪Solitude≫ have grown remarkably recently, but it is necessary to occasionally take a break.

So after doing a light indoor training today, I decided to make them study.

It is important that each of them is able to think for themselves.

The more they know, the more likely they are able to help when push comes to shove. They might offer suggestions and ideas that I didn't think of.

It's not only about the three R's, but it's also absolutely necessary for us to know first-aid because we place ourselves in battle all the time.

For the members of ≪Solitude≫, who haven't received any education up to this moment, absorbing knowledge now might prove useful for them in the future.

Though it does not change their purpose in Parabellum, it is an opportunity for them to become self-aware of their talents in studying. They may find work they'd want to do.

And above all, if they grow big and only become meatheads, it would be difficult to have them help in managing the organization.

If I wanted them to be in charge of accounting or planning, in order to lighten my load, I will need someone that can perform white-collar tasks.

While they are studying diligently, I take advantage of the spare time in between to cook and sew. It was a considerably relaxed day.

Seeing the children study on a snowy day, I enjoyed myself very well spending time teaching them.

Day 226

Unlike yesterday's weather, it was very sunny today. Only snow was left of yesterday's blizzard, and sunlight reflected off this silvery white world.

Puffs of white smoke rose from the chimneys of the castle town's houses, and the streets buzzed with life. The morning air was chilly but also pleasant, and I heard laughter when I was training outside .

Looking skyward where the sound originated, there they are. Forged of ice and snow: [Snow Fairies], they were 15 centimeters, danced deftly with wings of ice.

Their dance was beautiful, and scales of ice fell wherever they flapped their wings. Their wings also reflected sunlight, glowing in the colors of the rainbow.

Admiring this scenery, it's likely an instinctive fascination.

Snow faries make seasonal appearances in the Sternbild Kingdom, and they are a type of monster that combines grace and viciousness.

Despite their size, their appearance is that of a very beautiful woman or a girl in a pretty dress. But those trying to capture them to sell off as a decoration, would receive an unexpected retaliation.

Specifically, they use their freezing ability to take full advantage of their environment. Even though they're small in size, they are always surrounded by friends, so their fighting ability should be reasonably high.

Even so, since they usually leave you alone if you don't bother them, they are often ignored, or admired at the sight of their dance.

In my case, since I've seen it now, I was wondering what they would taste like, if they had any taste at all. My first attempt at catching them was by using thread from my fingertips to snare 10 of them. If I made a net with my fingers and manipulate it, it's possible to catch all of them at once. However, the thread will quickly freeze, resulting in a sphere of ice, before shattering in the next moment.

The shattered threat sprinkled on the snow like rain of ice.

Hmm, it seems like their freezing ability was stronger than I initially thought, and their physical capabilities have also been underestimated.

While we're on the topic, it's no surprise they would be angry at you for attempting to catch them. The emotion of the 10 fairies that I tried to catch turned from meek smiles to a look of pure rage.

Forming Ice rapiers in their hands, they generated countless large spikes larger than myself, with their tips all facing me.

Emitting killing intent, they flew at me with an impressive formation, representing a Black Wolf's hunting pattern.

Impressed by their power, this time I used the more resilient, stronger golden thread. The snow fairies tried to disperse in a hurry, but they were all caught in the end.

The captured fairies all struggled to freeze the golden thread, but even if it was frozen, the golden threads weren't going to shatter.

Becoming a ball of ice, I caught the falling ball in the air, smashed it with my silver arm, and retrieved its content. After binding all the fairies inside with my golden thread, I killed them by snapping their neck since they were screaming in a high-pitched voice. I tried to eat one and began biting into it.

Even though it was the meat of a humanoid, it resembled insects more. It was something that reminded me of the caterpillars from the forest.

A rich, creamy taste that was very unique and delicious. It's also a seasonal taste, it's not bad.

Hurrying around collecting as many as I can in the day time, I enjoyed some sake with Minokichi-kun

The compatibility of snow fairies and dungeon liquor was pretty good, it was a pity there wasn't enough snow fairies.

That's a complaint I had, but drinking liquor at noon is the best, and today is a good day.

We are two more days from our departure date.

Since the opening of the massage parlor is tomorrow, we'll depart after witnessing its grand opening.

I wounder what kind of formidable foes would I encounter after leaving the country, and would there be anymore new kinds of food that I haven't eaten like the snow fairies today. Only time will tell, and excitement towards various anticipations swelled up in my chest.

Day 227

Today is another sunny day, a memorable day that marks the start of our massage parlor business.

It seems news about the store had been spread previously, probably by the guest who advertised it after actually experiencing it firsthand.

There were ladies and their daughters who came here riding on their own carriages or on skeleton spiders a while later after its opening. The number exceeded what we anticipated, and there was a fairly long waiting time.

Due to the long waiting time, dissatisfaction began to form. In order to distract our guests from the long waiting time, we offered them boxes of sweets made from the honey and fruits gathered in the forest. That worked surprisingly well.

Tasting snacks with a unique sweetness unlike anything they ever tasted before, they killed time chatting with acquaintances.

This was a pretty good start, overall I'm pretty satisfied with today's sales. They were far beyond anything I could imagine, and if this continues on in the future, it's going to be quite profitable.

The magnificent effects of the oil had made many of ladies and daughters wishing to buy some. But we had to politely decline, due to the amount we have was unable to meet demands if they were sold. Instead, we did recommend them to come by regularly.

Actually, why not mass-produce inferior variations of the oil, and sell a small amount of them in the market? Even though I'm already thinking about it now, I might consider doing that in the future.

In the evening the Tomboy Princess dropped by, and we had a banquet. The Tomboy Princess brought with her large amounts of alcohol, but not just any alcohol. These were painstakingly made by professional brew masters, and none of them had any strange aftertastes.

I was thrilled when going through the barrels one by one, tasting each and every one of them. This was a fun of a different kind, and I choose the tastiest one among them to enjoy.

The masterpieces of Master Brewers were accomplished with pride, and now they were ever more successful when held in high regard throughout our celebration.

Day 228

Today we are leaving the Sternbild Kingdom.

The members traveling this time are only the 8 Demon Generals and I, thus 9 members.

As for Redhead, she's taking care of Opushii who has recently learnt to crawl. She's still not in the condition to travel with us, and we also explained the fact that the cold here is much more bearable than there.

Auro, Argento, and Oniwaka also wanted to come along, but the location we were heading towards could be dangerous. Since we're not sure about the layout of this dungeon, if something goes wrong they would only be a burden.

Especially in the Atarakua Demon Empire where we do not have a base.

We can't guarantee their safety there, in the worst case scenario, they would be taken hostage and then killed in the process, it's very possible.

That's why this time they'll be left here. This safety hazard also applies similarly to other members as well.

In any case, it's possible to contact through ear cuffs, so it'll work out somehow. We also have allies like the Tomboy Princess, so there aren't that many concerns.

Afterwards, we depart from the Sternbild Kingdom.

In addition to those staying behind, we're also seen off by Tomboy Princess, Boy Knight, the First Queen and the Dark Hero at the gates. Some waved goodbye or shake hands with sad faces, others asked for souvenirs. Their reactions are completely different from one another. After loading our belongings, we started to ride the skeleton centipede.

After traveling a certain distance, making sure nobody was around, we got off the [Skeleton Centipede]. That's because the journey this time is going to be much longer than our previous ones. Normally, it would take horse carriages months to travel the same distance, even on a normal [Skeleton Centipede] it will still take quite some time.

But since we don't want to waste time, we transferred to a special, unique skeleton centipede.

This was the first skeleton centipede I ever made. But after modifying it with magic over time, it became nearly three times as large as a normal skeleton centipede. It's much larger than the road, I guess the description would be easy to imagine.

In order to distinguish between them, I decided to call it [Great Skeleton Centipede].

To travel comfortably over long distances inside [Great Skeleton Centipede], the interior is equipped with various features to make life easy.

Not only does it have separate beds, it also has a kitchen, a refrigerator, washing machines, even a toilet and a bathroom. Even when compared to a typical house, this is a much more comfortable environment.

The [Great Skeleton Centipede] is like a huge camper van. If I want it to, it can be turned into an auto-pilot, automatic mobile fortress.

Thus, we continued our journey in the [Great Skeleton Centipede]. Since we can not only cook our food, wash our clothes, bathe ourselves and go to the toilet inside the [Great Skeleton Centipede], there is no need to stop from time to time.

We could spend our time studying and playing games during the day, and even when we're all sleeping during the night it will still continue to travel towards our destination.

Not only that, but it travels in a straight line towards our destination, traversing over obstacles and terrain.

But since we would be traveling through forests and valleys where monsters run wild, we had worries that the carriage might be attacked during our travels, but this didn't even happen once.

I wondered if it was because the monsters were overwhelmed by it's sheer size, incredible speed, but the fact that its strange outer appearance is concealed with [Hide] is probably the cause.

Thus, we would probably arrive much earlier than expected.

Day 229

Today, we continued to proceed towards our destination the entire day. This is good, very good.

If you want to go fast, even if it's a short distance, it's best you proceed the entire journey without rest.

In our case, we haven't stopped even once since the beginning.

It's difficult to spar daily under such situations. Due to our body size, we are in a rather tight space to do so.

Thus, we decided to remodel the roof of the [Great skeleton centipede] especially for this purpose

While it's not possible to have a spar with the other members up here, muscle training exercises are still possible to a certain degree.

After trying to exercise here, this place was surprisingly pleasant.

The wintry cold air cooling down your heated body after a training session feels great. The surrounding scenery continues onward every moment, a good reminder that we're on a journey. During our training session, we came upon grasslands with uneven elevation. But the [Great Skeleton Centipede] was able to push forward all the same.

Snow was pushed off to the left and right from the explosive momentum, with the same amount of snow being blown up in air and flowed back behind us, yet the [Great Skeleton Centipede] didn't lose any speed.

Falling snow glistened by reflecting the bright sun.

When passing by the shores of the ice-covered lake, I saw a beautiful women wearing a silvery blue robe at the center of it. It was a [Nymph], or at least that's what it looked like.

Even a quick glance at her from a distance would have been sufficient to pass her for a beauty. Any closer and you would have involuntary be fascinated. getting too close to her and you would have been killed by her by drying you up.

She also seemed to notice that I was looking at her, but by the time that happened, I was long gone.

After that I noticed figures made of snow: a [Snow golem] and flocks of [Snow eaters]

Snow eaters are a kind of earthworm type monster with a blue crystalline body 50 centimeter in length and feeds off the mana stored inside the bodies of snow golems.

They don't hunt anything else other than snow golems, but in order to protect themselves while they feed on the snow golem, they would spread gas in a few meter radius around the snow golem that freeze everything. When this happens, you need to be extra careful.

The freezing gas is very similar to liquid nitrogen, and usually, you would only notice its presence when you made contact with it and be harmed by it. Apparently, there are unfortunate cases where someone had been frozen alive after being directly exposed to the gas. But since [Snow eaters] are extremely vulnerable to fire, as long as you take proper caution, they're not that much of a threat.

While realizing that there are many more interesting things in this world, we continued to proceed to our destination.

Day 230

By noon, we arrived at the city closest to the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] dungeon within the Atarakua Demon Empire, on a hill overlooking the Labyrinth City beneath us, Radha Lo Dara.

To be honest, we arrived so quickly that even I was confused.

There were mountains, rivers, and even country borders on the way. But even if we did progress in a straight line and ignored all these, it's still quite early.

Not to mention the undead tirelessly striding all this distance, I'm actually rather surprised by the results generated by their capabilities.

We also decided to collect some information before actually challenging the dungeon, thus we decided to spend a few days in the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara.

Before that, I put the Great Skeleton Centipede to the item box, and we arrived to the city using an average Skeleton Centipede.

Before entering the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara, we must go through special procedures, similar back in the Sternbild Kingdom. There was a long queue at the gate.

Non-human races make up the majority of the population in the Atarakua Demon Empire. It's a very different scene from the Sternbild Kingdom where the majority of the citizens were humans.

So even our party of [demons] will not particularly stand out in here.

Due to the big differences, Minokichi-kun, with his bright appearance, looked around tirelessly and curiously with interest. Anyone who isn't familiar to him would mistaken his interest for predatory behavior, looking for prey.

Well, in addition to that, we also have a strangely shaped cart that doesn't require beast-type monsters to move around.

But what really stood out was the fact we have all these beauties in our group such as Kanami-chan and Burasato-san. Even if they are from a different race, they still have an alluring presence.

Well, personally I'm used to being in the center of attention.

Ignoring the people's stares, we paid at the gates with previously prepared [Demonic Empire] currency, and we're in.

Even a quick glance was enough to make the difference in comparison with the Sternbild Kingdom. There were small houses, like a dog kennel placed in a row, and there were even houses so big that creature as big as a [Troll] can live comfortably inside. The magnitude of house sizes are drastic.

The building materials used in those houses are majorly wood and brick, but there were also a variety of other things.

There are also many stores here selling unfamiliar cuisines not found within the Sternbild Kingdom. Appetizing smells wafted from here and there.

Eager to explore all these interesting things, we quickly found a luxurious inn and checked-in. There aren't any major differences between the check-in processes here and in the kingdom, and we had some free time after placing down our baggage.

Minokichi-kun and Asue-chan instantly left, they probably went on a date, and left the vicinity happily holding hands. Although the main activity would probably be to satisfy their gluttony. Burasato-san and Supesei-san also went for a walk together. After inquiring their objectives, it seems they're going out to buy demonic magic swords and rare Grimoires.

Seiji-kun, Kugime-chan and Irofu-chan left together as a trio. They decided to wander around the area for sightseeing. There are fellows here and there envious of Seiji-kun since he has a flower in each hand, but since Irofu-chan is there, everything will be fine.

Even when she isn't in her awakened state, Irofu-chan's combat capabilities are still very high. Rather than being worried about Seiji-kun being attacked, I'm more worried about those jealousy driven attackers who will end up being attacked by Irofu-chan.

Kanami-chan and I decided to head to the bar together. This is for the sake of collecting information. We're also drinking some sake, but it's not because of our desires, yes, it's all for the sake of collecting information. Don't confuse us as solely enjoying sake.

Seeing the seven demons off, I want to head out now as well, but I still have some things to do.

First, I made a cut in my right wrist, then I tossed out several clones out of the window, metamorphosing their appearance to give them flight abilities, and they scatter about to serve their respective purposes.

Then, to make up for the blood loss from my right wrist, I immediately drink a cup of labyrinth liquor. Without any problems Kanami and I went out to tavern. We went to a decent bar to order a drink, and we found out that there were a lot of strong drinks among the local bars.

However, they all have a warning label about being highly flammable, and if it comes in contact with fire, it erupts into a blazing inferno.

I tried ordering every drink on the menu, they were all delicious. But because it appears there are equivalent or even better drinks than this found within [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain], such as item drops, I had my morale boosted and let out a yell.

Today we all ate dinner together, in order to exchange the information that was gathered today. We have gathered a lot of useful information, I'll spend some time tomorrow to arrange the tools necessary according to the them.

Thinking about tomorrow's plans, I climbed into the warm bed.

[Psalm of the Legendary Hero [Shining Path of the Brave Fighter]: [Supporting Characters] Witch of Mystic Flame and Merciful Maiden have encountered [Main Character] Ace Sven Sigurd Avenger.]

[[Fate Stealer] Ability activated]

[The fate of Witch of Mystic Flame and Merciful Maiden falls under the power of Yatendouji]

[Witch of Mystic Flame confirmed to be in awakened sate]

[Merciful Maiden confirmed to be in awakened state]

[Decision to release special abilities for both belongs to Yatendouji]

[Would you release them right now?]

<Yes>/<No>

And this is? ...

Well for now I chose "No", and went to sleep.

Day 231

In the morning I woke up and heard the situation from the Avenger.

Of course we are talking about the supporting characters he met in his [History of the Legendary Brave Man] - [Shining Path of the Brave Fighting]: [Witch of Mystic Flame] and the [Merciful Maiden]. What happened and who they are, in order to understand the situation.

To summarize, according to his story he, Rusty Iron Knight, Scarface, along together with other comrades, wandered through the Sternbild Kingdom, while exercising, they came upon a village on the border between the Sternbild Kingdom and the Kirika Empire.

They weren't thinking about going into it at first, but after hearing about the good reputation of this village from traveling merchants in the Kirika Empire, well-known for their creation of dairy products, Rusty Iron Knight said: "Let's go take a look ya?", "For souvenirs, you know, mainly for that, we're close by anyway." thus resulted in a small change of plans.

Thus, it was decided that they wanted to buy some souvenirs and quickly entered.

But on the way to the village, he saw some fearful looks from the locals, a large number of wounded, and the traces of destruction, but that's only what they saw from a distance.

Worried about the situation in the village, they left Scarface, as well as obviously recognizable representatives of non-human race team members outside of the village in order to reduce stress, and so only the humans entered the village.

In contrast to their expectation they passed unhindered to the village, but when they tried to find out what had happened, people in a hurry run as soon as they tried to approach them.

What is the reason for their failure, they were able to realize it after when looked at each other's faces.

Avenger and Rusty Iron Knight are not ordinary citizens. They're people belonging to the military, and presumed dead during the expedition in the great forest.

But if the fact that they had survived has come to light, that would cause a lot of problems. Thus when they head out, they had to hide their identity with [Mask of the angry demon].

The village saw Avenger and company wearing a mask (which had became a habit), the company is viewed as approaching armed men in masks, even if they haven't done anything to this village, this reaction is understandable.

When they realized that the masked men, from the standpoint of ordinary people will not provide the individual any sense of security, it was too late.

I unintentionally thought "Are you stupid?", but it was something that could be remedied ,it was decided next time they need to fix this. But lets get back to talking.

From a remote distance, the villagers looked out from the shadows, none dared to approach.

But this was not a problem.

But among them those that aimed at them with looks of fear and rage had a strong look as if they were a longtime nemesis.

In addition, in the shadow of buildings there were men hiding, armed with clubs and hoes. It's a physical ambush.

Even though it's something unusual for a countryside village, but I guess it happens. Avenger was confident about this.

If they continue this standoff, nothing will happen, and if they are attacked, that will only create more problem.

Avenger and company took off their masks and hid their weapons, thus showing they mean no harm to anyone.

All they wanted is to hear the situation from the local head of the village, sat down right there on the spot.

Thus, local people have approached gingerly with furrowed eyebrows, and even led them to the house of the village head.

A gang of robbers known as [Angry Bear of the Fiery Fields].

That is the group responsible for the situation in the village.

A brown bear beast-man armed with a huge double-sided ax, mounted on a horse with luminous red hooves and mane [Luminescent Horse], leader of the [Angry Bear of the Fiery Fields], together with his gang attacked the village a few days ago.

The local men banded together and were able to fight back, and even caught a few criminals.

That was quite amazing. But unfortunately, their defense broke, and several bandits managed to break through and some young girls were abducted.

After decided that there will only be more victims, and this is turning into a standstill, they took the village girls, and the gangsters made their demands: "If ya want them back unharmed, give us gold, if you give then we'll give ya the girls, but if ya gonna call for backup, we will not be able to guarantee their safety," after that they disappeared.

After that, in order to avoid the undead, they had a local funeral of the victims, including the criminals. Then they proceeded to rebuild destroyed homes, after that they have a talk on their course of action.

In small villages like this one, all the inhabitants treat each other as a family.

Since childhood, they grew up together, spent days helping each other.

Thus the residents have decided to give the ransom and get girls.

However, the amount requested by the bandits was large. Given the need to repair the village, thinking about the future of the village, it's not an amount that can be given so easily.

It may sound inhumane, but for the sake of a few girls consequently leaving 100 people in the village in poverty is very problematic. Even so, they are able to collect the required amount, and the day came when it was necessary to give the ransom.

The bandit leader's designated time was in the evening, and the appointed time is coming swiftly. Over time, the mental state of the village was hardly calm and in many ways irritated, at the moment came along Avenger and the company.

Due to their bad timing, they were confused with the bandits attacked the village, causing this reaction. The mask didn't contribute much to their hatred.

Well, a lot of things happened, given that his native village was destroyed in a similar fashion, Avenger had a great degree of hate towards these robbers who go about destroying villages. Because of that, he charged almost nothing for the robber extermination.

Only in this case, the other comrades are not involved.

Because Avenger took this mission personally. If Rusty Iron Knight and other comrades participated, that amount would not be enough.

This was not something expected by the village, because the elders and the people bowed to him in a deep bow.

Thus, for the mission to eliminate the bandits, almost all 10 bandits sent forth to collect the ransom were immediately slain by the Avenger before they had the chance to escape.

But due to the fact that the village girls were not with them, in order to find the place where they were kept, a couple of survivors were interrogated by Parabellum, and they spilled everything.

Cleverly acquiring information and getting rid of the remaining bandits, Avenger left the protection of the village to Rusty Iron Knight and company. he alone departed from the village.

At the time of his departure, the sun had set and it was a cloudy night, nobody saw him. He had a light source, but in order to ambush, he couldn't use it. But there was plenty of night time training, and possessing outstanding abilities to detect the enemy, the Avenger could move without any problems even in the dark.

On the contrary, this darkness became a good tool for eliminating undetected, and the bandits had a banquet in their camp, in the clearing of the woods, led by bear beastman. A simple task to wait for the right moment, ensure the safety of village girls, and slaying the bandits with a swift strike. That was the plan.

But on the spot where the bandit's camp was, a prominent pillar of flame rose furiously. Wondering what happened, and how the mage could hide its presence, he hurried to the place. But when he arrived there, it was all over.

Upon arrival, the Avenger saw the scene. The base of the "Angry Bear of Fiery Fields", looked like a field of burning torches and there were glowing corpses of bandits and their horses.

Laying nearby were the blurred strokes of mutilated bandit corpses, sprawled like frogs. Apparently they were attacked just before the banquet, for they laid next to the remains of cooked food, broken bottles of booze, the contents of which have not yet been soak into the ground, broken long swords, and heavily armored breastplates shells now bent, as well as other damaged equipment.

There was the strong smell of blood, with black smoke rising from wooden tents. The scattered bodies stink terribly from the smell of burning manure. There are still survivors among the bandits, but they either could not move or twitch in their death throes. He couldn't tell how someone cut the whole gang of robbers.

Trying to figure out what happened, in a slightly remote location, he found the village girls in torn clothes, as well as the 2 women in clearly expensive armors. Judging by the circumstances, the 2 beauties have saved the village girls. In order to know more details about this, Avenger called out towards the duo.

It was the meeting of the Avenger with his subsidiary characters Witch of Mystic Flame and Merciful Maiden.

To be attacked during their first meeting must be quite the impression in my opinion, but probably looking at Avenger, the [Witch of Mystic Flame] and [Merciful Maiden] thought he was one of the men who went to collect money from the village.

Before they attack him, the duo asked the village women about him, who responded, "We do not know about that man."

Thus the battle began because of a misunderstanding. The Avenger had some difficulties against this pair, but was able to get out of the battle victorious flawlessly.

If he fought against the duo, who have a high degree of cooperation, as his previous self he would have likely lost.

But instead of relying on strong magical items and training in armor, that limited the excessive force his Divine Protection can provide and fighting techniques Arts, in contrast to his former self whom relied on brute force, he became a master of weapons.

These results led him to victory.

After restraining the duo by defeating them, after which he took their weapons, and bonded the stunned duo with ropes, he proceed to listen to the details of the village girls.

The village girls panicked from the fact that the couple lost, but in the end everyone calmed down somehow , he ordered them to return to the place where the couple staged a massacre.

The village girls obeyed this order, began to collect more useful thing left by the gang of robbers, and the carcasses are still burning with flames.

After finishing the necessary deeds, they woke up the duo, and with the village girls, explained the situation to them.

Waking couple noticed that they were tied, but after understanding the situation, they didn't became mad.

As they realized that they were wrong to considere Avenger a robber, as compensation the duo decided to spend some time to work for the Avenger.

In general, that was the story. In my opinion, it sounded like a story I heard of before, well whatever as long as its convenient. This is more than just the fate of similar history.

But since their work is only so so, and Avenger's privileges alone isn't enough to accept this offer, it was placed on hold. They also had a bit of damage, but that was dealt with thru alchemist recovery medicine. There's also an abundance of goods from the bandits, but only a little profit.

Thus, there's no reason to oppose.

I certainly think it would be all right, since they are Avenger's side characters, they'll likely help in the future. But there are some things I wouldn't know without talking to them directly. Even though the information is directly from an majorly involved person, but you can't fully trust second hand information

Thus, I had an interview with them via transmitter, and judging from the results, I didn't see particular problems, and gave my approval.

Henceforth, they are temporary companions that will be training alongside Avenger. They will work in accordance to their abilities. alongside negotiations and the collection of information, the entire day was spent.

It's just that the booze in the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara was too delicious, so after the collection of information I got drunk.

Yes, there's no choice. There's no other way.

Day 232

There exists a district within the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara, known as the 'Yatai Street'. The entire street is lined with food stands, selling snacks such as kushiyaki or Yakisoba. The variety of cuisine in the stalls allows one to enjoy the local culture and atmosphere.

After a light workout at the training site (which anyone can use free of charge), Kanami-chan and I went there for lunch. Actually, since the stalls in the Yatai street use materials and monster drops harvested from the "Furemusu Blaze Dragon Mountains", the food was extremely delicious.

Thick cuts of meat are being grilled on an iron plate heated to a high temperature by burning coal beneath it. The smell that wafts from it would whet anyone's appetite.

The synergistic effect of smell and sound would naturally make anyone drool.

They also used fresh vegetables for wrapping up the meat. The peculiar sweetness of the vegetables complemented the taste of the meat.

Juicy rich meat and fresh vegetables, this combination is certainly the best.

The only thing that surpasses this, is of course alcohol.

The high alcoholic content in the strong sake makes it feel like you're burning your throat when you drink it down, but the taste is so delicious that if you drink it once, you will get addicted to it.

Personally, it's even better than elven wine.

Well, it is more on the level of personal preference since the taste and concentration is different anyway.

I was walking around the area, enjoying the various cuisines they got to offer here. Although, while the cuisines here are delicious, I also have something I need to do.

Because the main customers in the Yatai streets are adventurers that have returned from the dungeon.

Adventurers often have a lot of information on the dungeon, something that I want to know about. When they arrive at Yatai street, the first place they often go to is the bar, where they unwind and relax after a long day of shedding blood and sweat. Sometimes, they might even accidentally mouth off information they don't usually disclose.

You can't normally find this kind of information. It's also possible to hear about it using [Wiretapping]. This kind of information is also more commonly found in taverns, where the flow of information is more abundant. Just like that, I gathered information along the way while enjoying the food in the food stalls, visiting various places, and returned to the hotel after nightfall.

In the evening, after doing various things with Kanami-chan, I was a little hungry, so we both ate the [Grief-Charybdis], [Aquarium Golem Ball] and the [Gemini Red Nuns]

Ability Learned: 【Great Whirlpool of Disastrous Waters】
Ability Learned: 【Wail of Sorrow】
Ability Learned: 【Effective Terrain: Water】
Ability Learned: 【Emergency Retreat】
Ability Learned: 【High Compression】
Ability Learned: 【Hard Sphere】
Ability Learned: 【Bright Red Arms of Boiling】
Ability Learned: 【Duplicate Existence】
Ability Learned: 【Reconstruct Existence】

They were all delicious, but the one that tasted the best would be the [Gemini Red Nuns - Yu Via]. Their hands in particular were the best. Its tender meat melted in your mouth, a little spice to make it a bit more tangy would have made it even better.

Since Kanami-chan also liked it, I promised to get more.

The only thing I have left is the internal organs of the [Shark-Head Bolt Wyrm]. But since I already had a lot of fun, I'll put that aside for now.

Day 233

I've decided to make a base in the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara.

I like it here, but that's only part of the reason.

Originally, when I looked at the General Chamber of Commerce, I though about Parabellum's operation range, which is currently in the Sternbild Kingdom, I already though about setting up a base in another country so that we can hide there if anything happens.

A very extreme case would be if the Sternbild Kingdom conspired with the surrounding countries to annihilate us. We aren't going to stay silent if they tried to disrupt our business. But sooner or later, we're going to succumb to the pressure.

However, if we were to expand our field of operation into more than one country, completely crushing us would take much more effort.

Even though we have the Tomboy Princess on our side, when it all comes down to it the Sternbild Kingdom alone will not be able to compete with all the surrounding nations. If this becomes reality, the Sternbild Kingdom will surely be ruined.

Within the kingdom, even if we factored in the First Queen, there will still be a shortage in authority. When you think about the benefit of the kingdom as a whole, betraying us would be the most feasible solution. There are problems in this world that can't be solved with brute force alone.

Well, this is just an extreme example, and it's almost impossible. However, similar problems might occur in the future, and it's best to take precaution.

Thus, after meeting with the General Chamber of Commerce, the company funded by Parabellum: Heart of the Serpent was founded.

But since Heart of the Serpent had only just been founded, we'll need a store to act as our base.

For staff members, I can use members of Parabellum I had just contacted through the cuffs. I can also store the would-be merchandise inside my Item Box.

However, if there is no store, we can't even conduct business, let alone construct a base, which is our original purpose.

Thus, it was decided that we are going to a major real-estate company in the city to purchase a store.

But then, we'll need to negotiate.

I would like to conceal the relation between Heart of the Serpent and Parabellum as much as possible. I could do this by infecting somebody with a parasite and get them to negotiate. However, I could also instead simply use [Shapeshift] and [Metamorphosis] and transform myself into a completely different person altogether with ease.

As expected, doing business myself instead of infecting somebody with a parasitic clones is much more practical. I can even use my [Discount] ability to get 30% price reduction.

Using my abilities, I changed my appearance to an honest blond hair, blue-eyed young merchant.

I even worn clean, tidy clothes and put on modest ornaments and nothing too distasteful.

Looking into the mirror, I couldn't even recognize myself.

While Kanami-chan saw through me at a glance, the others fathomed at a glance, and didn't say anything about it.

Well, putting that aside, after giving myself a makeover, I decided that instead of going alone, I'll also make some escorts.

The fastest way would be to use [Intermediate Summoning: Fishman]. However, even though there are species of Gillman that live primarily on land, I'll pass that idea this time since such species are exceedingly rare.

Thus, I also made a coat with a black skeleton generated using [Lesser Summoning: Undead]. Usually I'd end it here, but this time I also spent some additional time tailoring the transformation.

Thus, the old butler with eye-catching white hair was born.

While he has a upright appearance and posture, and a proper suit, he gives off the atmosphere of a twisted, nefarious fellow.

But after trying to get this guy to follow me around, I decided that I had the right idea about this.

Riding an ordinary horse-drawn carriage instead of a Skeleton Centipede, we headed straight for the Chamber of Commerce.

The building is a very large 3-story structure, built with marble and wood probably harvested from the dungeon.

A simple glance around the interior would allow anyone to easily deduce that it cost a lot of money to decorate the property. This reflected the financial power and the authority of the Chamber of Commerce.

You can easily spot a cowering, little merchant clad in livery at the reception. I wonder what's gotten him so shaken up?

Well, it doesn't matter. After talking with the clerk about my requirements for the plot, I was taken to the back room.

There was a cozy little sofa among some fine things, as well as tea and confectionery that was almost on par with some of the finest products the Tomboy Princess brought.

While I helped myself to the snacks, my negotiation partner came into the room.

He was a young man with round glasses, and he always has a smile stuck on his face.

Honest, but also suspicious, we proceeded to talk *Munch Munch.

I asked about the condition of the store.

It seems like there are a total of 3 dungeons that are roughly the same distance away from the Labyrinth City.

There are 2 stores, and of course the larger one is preferred.

When the 3 dungeons are connected with a line, it almost forms an equilateral triangle. So I hoped that there was some property at the center of this triangle. However, the location is a popular place, and there is a variety of facilities such as accommodation facilities and cash exchange offices.

There are almost no good properties left, but there are some left overs. The left over property was a problematic one though, or so I was told.

When I asked for details, it seems like there was a famous structure that had a lot of drop items and funds invested into its construction.

It's almost located at the dead center of the triangle, however if someone were to classify the structure, it would be building with an industrial type basement with some ground stories.

A 5 meter tall and 50 centimeter thick wall surrounds the house, making the square with walls 80 meter long on each side. This property will be suitable to double as a base, which is one of our original purposes.

All we need to do is to submit the exact portion of the property we want as well as to pay the transaction fees to the headquarters located in the capital, and the property will be ours. In addition to a store, the property is perfect for our purposes.

However, a few months ago a large group of people took resident in the structure illegally.

If they were just thugs or homeless folks the problem would have been easily solved. However, it seems they aren't the well-behaved kind. They were adventurers who specialized in illegal transactions and businesses hidden from public.

The company tried to get them to leave of course, several times now. However, it seems like all of their attempts failed. Since there was an influential person mixed in the bunch, it made the whole issue even more troublesome.

After that I asked them to continue with the negotiation of course. This is no reason to miss out on such a good piece of property. Having this kind of back story makes it even better since that means I can buy good property at low prices.

After that, the young man left and the negotiator changed to a middle aged man who was a chairman of the local [Chamber of Commerce]. After making the final negotiation directly with the old man, we decided to finalize the transaction and purchase the property.

Not only did we settle on a cheap price, but we also made a deal that if we managed to chase the illegal residents out of the property, he would also renovate the structure for us for a cheap price.

Well well, it was a really good deal.

Now then, why not take a detour before I head back?

A day after that, the dozens of people illegally staying in that house suddenly disappeared. Apparently, a rival firm sent them there. Now that I understand the situation, I guess this sort of thing happens, oh well, I think I also have a few things planned...

I didn't secure any new abilities, but the drops I got off them makes this encounter quite fortunate.

Day 234

Yesterday, after collecting the desired information, we went shopping/hunting for magic items that would help reduce the terrain effect damage caused by the intense heat of the volcano. Because in the morning, we will venture forth to challenge the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] dungeon, the main objective of our trip.

The dungeon is located in a remote region about 30 minutes away from the city by horse carriage. Unfortunately, we wouldn't be able to admire it's majesty today due to bad weather.

Glowing red lava spews forth, bubbling out of the ground everywhere even during the night. Lightning bolts crackle constantly within the thick black clouds. First day of the challenge looks like quite a sloppy day, but I guess it's inevitable...

Leaving the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Lara on the Skeleton Centipede, kicking up snow on the way, we left behind a trail as we moved towards our target.

I think about 10 minutes have passed by now.

Chatting on the way, we finally arrived at the border zone of the barrier that surrounds the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] dungeon.

As mentioned in the information gathered, the transition can be recognized at a glance. The silvery white world that looked like a painting was suddenly peeled off, revealing bare rocks and a barren waste land.

No snow piled up in here unlike outside in the wilderness. With the boundaries this clearly divided up, if anyone wandered in here by mistake, they'd have to be a complete idiot. Even the climate is completely different, the previous freezing cold disappeared, and now I'm sweating all over due to the heat and humidity.

While enjoying one of the wonders of the world, we entered into the border zone and have officially arrived at the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain].

The moment we entered the mountains, the temperature spiked. Temperature increased so drastically, it feels like I'm right next to a fire.

Moisture began to escape from my mouth, and breathing turned difficult. Slowly, my body began to feel like it was gradually being burned.

This must be the terrain effect damage.

If nothing is done about this, your physical strength will begin to diminish until death is imminent.

The main cause of this damage is all around us. No doubt it's because of the heat radiating from the lava. My clone that's currently enveloping the Skeleton Centipede] is slowly being roasted into a crisp by the geothermal heat. This is no laughing matter.

If you don't react to this accordingly, you'll be nicely cooked.

As expected from a [God] class dungeon.

By the time you encounter a dungeon monster, you would already be shaved of both strength and motivation.

If we didn't collect information and prepare before, Irofu-chan, who is vulnerable to heat, would have already thrown a mighty temper tantrum and say "LET'S GO BACK HOME, GO BACK HOME, GO BACK HOME, GO BACK HOME!"

Well, in this kind of temperature, apart from Minokichi-kun and I who have countermeasures against the heat, and apart from Asue-chan, everyone else would have wanted to return as well.

At any rate, I can activate [Fireproof Mucus Resistance] and [Complete Fire Resistance], almost completely negating the terrain effect on me. I still feel a little hot, but nothing serious.

Minokichi-kun's [Demigod of Fire's Blessing] nullifies the damage that the [Terrain Damage] would have normally dealt to him, even more it wasn't making him feeling uncomfortable; actually he is looking better here than usual.

While Asue-chan doesn't have any special abilities like us, however since [Earth Lord - Variant] often mine in areas such as volcanoes, her race has the highest base heat resistance among us all.

Give her a few heat resistant equipment, and she will be fine.

Since the rest didn't have any abilities or high heat resistance they'll have to use magic items. They wore [Ice-cold Underwear], [Cooling Long Cape], [Heat Proof Combat Boots], and used a magic potion [Cooling Liquid] that envelops their body in a thin liquid of mucus.

This seemed to substantially reduce the heat.

But even with all this, Irofu-chan still looks rather lifeless. She'll have no choice but to give it her best shot.

After finishing our preparations, we got off the Skeleton Centipede and only managed to advance a few meters before we were attacked. The attackers that suddenly jumped out of the ground are known as [Lava Dungeon Army Fish].

Freely swimming in lava and magma, this fish is a species of Armored Fish, reaching lengths of 1 meter and is clad in heavy armor composed of red hot magma. Even without its rush attack, it has fearsome destructive capabilities. Its armor is hard enough to deflect any half-hearted attack while also dealing damage itself. Furthermore, if dozens of them were killed, hundreds more will rush in. Within the outer layers of [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain], it's known as the most obnoxious monster.

We heard that about a third of the deaths in the early levels of Fire Dragon Mountain were caused by this monster.

Naturally we had a wonderful time.

Due to the fact there were 9 demons here, the usually abundant experience was distributed among us. But since they came by the dozens, they make leveling very efficient. Furthermore, they were also very tasty.

Yum, grilled fish is the best.

Ability learned: [Traverse Lava]

With this ability, I can now swim in lava. In addition, this ability can also be used in various other locations where there is no lava. I have to say, this is quite a good start.

Now then, in order to fill in the blanks of my mental map, why don't we travel in a clockwise direction along the [Border Area]?

Day 235

By default, there are no such things as [Safe Zones] within the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain].

Naturally there are the dungeon monsters relentlessly attacking you day and night, but there is also the ever-changing landscape of the mountains that you need to be occasionally wary of.

Just when you think you're on flat-lands where there is no lava nearby, it suddenly gushes out from right under your feet. Naturally, you also have to be cautious about the toxic volcanic fumes coming out of nowhere.

It seems to me that if you ever decide to take a rest while your guard is lowered in this place, you're as good as dead.

For adventurers that chose to challenge this place, even taking a rest is a challenging task. However, compared to them we have a much easier time since we can build a temporary base by changing the shape of the skeleton centipede. I wonder, can the other adventurers even take a rest in this place... After easily building our base Kanami-chan, who seemed very tired after the day was over, took her rest at ease while I stood guard overnight with my ability [Tireless].

But I had to slaughter a large number of dungeon monsters who came to attack the camp on my own. Since it's for the sake of everyone, it can't be helped.

I'm not doing this just to fill my belly, that's not the situation here.

Anyway, after a good night's rest, Seiji-kun and Kugime-chan look healthy and in tip-top shape. Looks like it's possible to start conquering the dungeon in perfect condition.

I spent the entirety of yesterday filling my mental map, that went well.

However, things didn't go as smoothly as usual. The reason for this is due to the fact that the local monsters are far stronger than my clones. Thus, I instead summoned some Black Fomorians, infected them with my parasite clones, and sent them out to explore the area. Combining that with Kugime-chan's perception abilities, we covered 4/10ths of the site. In addition, we also found a few field bosses, so in that aspect I can say it went well.

However, the "Fire Dragon Mountain" was larger than expected. Due to constant battle with the local monsters, as well as the terrain itself, we only managed to finish our exploration along the border area in the late morning of today, which was outside of what I planned.

Putting that aside, after taking a lunch break, and exchanging our thoughts and experiences with fighting in the local area, we have decided that we will continue the conquest of this dungeon, and our current course of action will be to hunt down the dungeon bosses.

The real conquest begins now.

[Job: Sentinel] and [Phased Radar Array] indicated the general direction of distant field bosses. Kugime-chan was able to identify a more detailed position of the boss with her abilities.

With this, it is now possible to walk straight towards our destination without getting lost.

We proceed without hesitation since we know we're taking the shortest path, however on our way we were attacked by a large horde of monsters who came flocking over.

- Cloaked in black azure flames, an aggregation of skulls that floated freely in the air: the [Skull Legion of Cursed Flames].

- Man-sized carnivorous butterflies that scatter strong hallucinogenic scales and phantom fire, while hunting their prey with sharp proboscis whilst hiding in the shadows: [Frey John's Killer Butterfly]

- Flying at high speed using wings of fire, performing kamikaze attacks by exploding in the blind spots of adventurers: [Explosive Bomb Bird].

- Preying on unsuspecting victims by acting as a puddle of lava, they generate volcanic gas and acidic fluids while bouncing with great speed: [Lavarick Great Slime].

- Adapting to living in hot lava and magma, their main characteristics are the red hot blades they duel wield and flaming dorsal fins on their huge body: [Volcanic Crimson Lizard Lords].

We backed each other up while fending off the attackers, and proceeded smoothly.

However, these dungeon monsters are clearly much stronger than the monsters we previously encountered outside. If we didn't detect their presence in advance, this would have became a critical situation.

Smoothly proceeding forward, we arrived at our destination.

Countless columns of lava rose like tall trees crowding together, this is going to be a dreadful place to fight.

The countless giant columns of lava generate a lot of blind spots, and due to our delicate spacing, coordination with everyone else is going to be hard.

Moreover, there seems to be a slight indentation filled with accumulated toxic gases heavier than air where the pillar connects to the ground. Upon closer inspection, it seems like the gas is leaking out of cracks on the pillar.

On top of that, the lava pillars were extremely hot. Even if we've taken action against them, we'll still feel the extreme heat despite not taking damage. What's hot is hot I guess.

With a quick glance, we've determined that this is not a suitable battlefield for us and decided to lure him out to a remote location instead. But we were a little too late.

The field boss has already noticed our presence and is approaching here at high speed.

We could certainly retreat since we haven't entered deep into the forest of lava pillars, however I've determined it would be easier for us to fight here and thus formed ranks. Then, he appeared atop of the pillars, along with his underlings.

A muscular body covered in red pelts boasting a level of hardness higher than magic metal, four brawny arms thicker than an ace pitchers' with clubs forged with lava on each hand, six bustling golden eyes constantly staring at us, 6 lengthy tails flickering dexterously and sinuously, thick legs supporting his 5 meter body while trampling over the pillars, and strong toes that gripped firmly onto the scaffolding.

The name of the first field boss was [Volcanic Ape General], and this forest of volcanic lava pillars was his territory. The [Volcanic Ape General], leading a dozen of his kind that are about half his size and have 2 arms instead of 4, was emitting pressure from his statue. With his golden eyes observing our every move, he was ready to commence attack as soon as we shown any sign of weakness.

Around the Ape General were his [Volcanic Apes], all in their respective positions, awaiting orders from their herd leader.

As expected of a field boss of a [God] class dungeon, not only is he powerful on his own, he even has the capabilities to lead his own kind. He's going to be a very difficult opponent.

We didn't have an immediate confrontation, instead we had a stand off, a strange silence dominated the surrounding.

All that was heard was the noise of air jets, the sound of lava not unlike earth tremors and the howls of the dungeon monsters from a distance.

Amidst each other's breathing, there's only a slight metallic sound and the rustling of clothes.

This stand off only lasted a dozen seconds at most, and the first one to break it was the [Volcanic Ape General].

He started the fight with a roar of overwhelming power; cracks formed on the huge lava pillars around him. If he roared at close distance, it would even immobilize a dragon variant. It would naturally also be effective against us. We weren't immobilized, but that's not the problem. It's not something related to our physical body. It seems like our mental processing ability had slowed down.

Not about to miss this opening, the [Volcanic General Monkey] jumped up high. Swinging his four clubs at us with his brawny hands while falling, I determined that this is going to be a powerful attack.

Thus, I used [Gravity Manipulation] and suspended him in midair as soon as he was about to strike. At this moment, Minokichi-kun and the others have come to an understanding, and activated the full extent of their union attack, and unleashed the [Destructive strike - Annihilation Trigram of the 8 Demons].

The union attack [Destructive strike - Annihilation Trigram of the 8 Demons] bundles and fuses the mysterious powers of the eight demons and converts it into a black flash. The [Volcanic Ape General] who was floating in the air attempted to defend himself using his clubs but to no avail. The next moment all that was left of him was his head, spinning elegantly in the air.

The Union attack's destructive power not only killed the [Volcanic Ape General], but demolished countless lava columns and several unlucky [Volcanic Apes] without a trace, and even penetrated the black clouds in the sky, leaving behind a hole in the clouds.

Sunlight poured in from the hole, illuminating the trail of destruction.

Witnessing this scene, the remaining [Volcanic monkeys] froze in their positions, ceasing all movement.

Of course, we took the chance to close our distance while they stood there befuddled. Repeatedly using [Pressurized Thunder Cannon] from distance, or [Blazing Adamantine Paralysis Claw] to cut off the limbs, we began to hunt down the remnants using a variety of ways.

After the start of the battle, there is no escape for the monsters in the dungeon. It didn't even take us a few minutes to capture them all.

After all that, their corpses were safely stored using Item Box

[Dungeon Boss [Volcanic Monkey General] successfully removed]

[As a bonus for the elimination of the boss, a treasure box [The Fiery Ape General's Coffin] will be sent.]

It was a disappointing conclusion, however this is the result of our first field boss battle. It was our complete victory.

However, the eight demons are now suffering the after-effects of using the union, and are all exhausted.

Even the muscle idiot Minokichi-kun is now panting as he is lying down on the ground.

The one with the weakest body, the beansprout Seiji-kun is now half stunned on the ground. It seems that not even being roasted by the hot ground is going to make him move.

This was a test to see if we would need to do this with moderation the next time. I made a simple resting camp with a [Skeleton centipede] and brought everyone inside, as well as the huge treasure box that appeared, and decided to take a long rest that served as a treatment.

I was thinking about leaving the head of the [Volcanic Ape General for later, but the fragrance emitting from the meat being burnt by the geothermal heat is just too alluring.

A sound of hunger came from me though. Eating ripped off meat satiated my appetite.

[Ability learned: [Earth-Shaking Wrecking Staff]]
[Ability learned: [Herculean Strength]]
[Ability learned: [Body of Flames]]

My whole body was filled with strength and satisfaction. This was the best filling I ever felt.

I even might have just experienced a phenomenon where light shot out of my eyes and mouth.

Rock Hero(Male)
One of Four Symbols
Heroes of Kingdom
Ogra-Kichi change to
Mino-Kichi
Minotauros(New)
1st Queen of
Kingdom
Tomboy
Princess's Mother
Dark Hero(Female)
One of Four
Symbols Heroes of
Kingdom
Dham-Mi change
to Kana-Mi
Vampire Noble
(Variant)
Ogra-Rou change to
Apo-rou
Apostle Lord
(Extinct)
Water Hero(Male)
One of Four
Symbols Heroes of
Kingdom
Female Warrior
Stranger from
Another World
like Rou
Tomboy Princess
of Kingdom
Main Characters
主な登場人物

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